

Conviction or Convenience

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Introduction

1. Acts 24:24-25
2. Meaning of terms
 1. Convenience suited to personal or to easy performance
 2. Conviction a strong persuasion on a belief
3. Some serve God for convenience
 1. Doctor told to build practice by going to the biggest religious group in town
 2. Rich folks to show off clothes
 3. Some to serve family
 4. Some do it only when it does not interfere with their plans
4. Some serve God because of conviction. They take a strong stand whether it is easy or not.
5. Why do you serve God?

II Discussion

1. Heaven bound people have always been people of conviction
 1. Joshua 24:14-15
 2. Three Hebrew youth Daniel 3:16-18
 3. Daniel in the lion's den Daniel 6
 4. Those converted Acts 2, 7, 8, 9, 16
 5. The message of the first century is an example of those who were convicted; it was not composed with the philosophies of the day
 6. The sacrifices which they made during the first century shows they were convicted Acts 2:45
 7. Their devotion shows they were convicted Acts 5:29
2. Jesus is our example of conviction 1 Peter 2:21
 1. He left heaven for earth John 6:28; 2 Corinthians 8:9
 2. Christ spoke the truth against opposition Matthew 23
 3. For this He was denied, tried and crucified Acts 7:52; 3:13-15
3. Spiritual failures have always been people of convenience
 1. Adam and Eve, it was convenient to eat
 2. Nadab and Abihu got fire where it was convenient, not where God told them Leviticus 10:1-2
 3. Jeroboam made it convenient for people to worship 1 Kings 12:28
 4. Ananias and Sapphia gave because it suited them Acts 5
 5. Demus served God because it was convenient 2 Timothy 4:10
4. The message of many religious people today make religion one of convenience rather than conviction.
 1. Join the church of your choice
 2. Many ways to heaven
 3. Faith only
 4. Sprinkling for baptism
 5. Instrumental music
 6. One can stay at home and be just as good Hebrews 10:25
 7. I can conform to the world without contamination Romans 12:1-2
 8. Let them alone, you might drive them away
 9. Let someone else do it, studying, giving, cleaning
 10. It does not matter what you believe

III Conclusion

1. We have before us today examples of both those who served God for conviction or convenience, which one represents you?
2. To change from convenience we must be converted!

3. This is the time to be converted!
4. In the dictionary these words are separated by the word conversion Acts 3:19; James 5:19-20

Source; Old sermon preached 1991