**Three Essential Convictions for Conversion**

I am sometimes asked, as probably every preacher is, “What do I need to teach someone in order to convert them? It is, after all, a BIG Book!” I have given different answers to that question over the years as I have lived and learned. Then too, each individual is different, and what “works” for one may not be the best approach or method for another. Still yet, there are fundamental truths that must be learned, understood, and *fully* accepted (as absolute convictions) in order to lead someone to the ultimate *conversion* that we considered this morning. So, let’s back up and examine what I (at least) consider to be the three most important convictions leading to conversion.

1. **God is the Creator, Heb.11:3**
	1. Intelligent Designer and Creator of the Universe, Gen.1:1ff; Ps.19:1-6; Ex.20:11; “It” didn’t all happen by *accident/explosion*, but was the *plan* (through His eternal *wisdom*) and by His *power* (through His eternal *might*), Rom.1:20.
	2. He created man *“in His image,”* Gen.1:26-27; with an *eternal soul,* not the mere product of a happy accident whereby the *non-living* came to *life*, a chance mutation that allowed it replicate in a positive way, and survival of the fittest that refined us into a *higher evolutionary species*, but with *intellect, free-will,* and *eternal consequences.*
	3. Unless they/we are *fully convinced/convicted* in mind and heart of God as the *Uncaused Cause,* the *Intelligent Designer,* and *Omnipotent Creator* of all things, we cannot hope to be converted. No “ifs” or “buts” about it, period. Why is this so important? It tells us not only *who we are,* but *how we got here!*
2. **The Bible is His Word:**
	1. Spoken, 1Cor.2:9-14
	2. Written, 2Tim.3:16a
	3. Purpose is to save, 2Tim.3:15,16b
	4. We will be held *accountable* to it, John 5:45-48; 8:48; 12:48.
	5. Again, why is this so essential to conversion? It tells us *why we are here!*
3. **Jesus was Resurrected from the Dead**
	1. Is it important that there was an *eternal plan* to save man even before he was created? Of course, Eph.1:3-4
	2. Is it essential that this plan was centered on *Jesus Christ?* Absolutely, Eph.1:5-7.
	3. But the *virgin birth, sinless life,* and even the *crucifixion* mean nothing without His *resurrection from the dead,* Rom.1:4; 1Cor.15:12-28.
	4. Everything rests on his resurrection from the dead, and: 1) there were *eye-witnesses* who knew Him “before” and saw Him “afterwards,” 1Cor.15:3-8; and, 2) they had no reason to live and die for a lie, Rev.6:10-11.
	5. And why is this vital to conversion? It tells us *where we are going;* eitherto *eternal life* or *eternal damnation!*

**Now, if we are not truly *convicted* (absolutely convinced) in our *minds* and *hearts* regarding these three essential truths, we will never be truly converted.**

**Therefore, as we seek to lead others to Christ (John 15:8; 2Tim.2:2), these three *truths* should be our foundational focus.**