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THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

UNLESS YOU ARE CONVERTED

The disciples asked Jesus, “Who then is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Jesus called a little child to him, set him in the midst of the disciples and answered, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:1-4). In answering the question of His disciples, Jesus specified two things essential to entering into the kingdom of heaven - conversion and humility. In addition, it is the one who humbles himself or herself as a little child who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

What does it mean to humble oneself as a little child? Little children are teachable, non-prejudiced and eager to please. They more readily adapt to changes than do adults. They have unconditional love for their parents and express that love by obeying their parents. It is obvious that these characteristics are also necessary for one who would enter the kingdom of heaven. Indeed, the willingness to humble oneself before God in obedience to His will is absolutely necessary for conversion. The Bible tells us to “...be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time” (1 Peter 5:5-6).

The Greek word which is translated “converted” literally means “to turn around” or “reverse” direction. One cannot continue in the practice of sin and be saved eternally. One must “repent (a change of mind) and be converted” (a change in direction) in order that his or her sins may be “blotted out” (Acts 3:19). Conversion is not complete until sins are forgiven. Sons are not forgiven until one is spiritually cleansed by the blood of Jesus. That cleansing takes place only after one believes in Jesus as the Son of God, repents of sin, confesses faith in Christ and is immersed in water into the death of Jesus for the remission of sins (John 8:24; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:9-10; 6:3-5). Until one humbles oneself in loving obedience to the Heavenly Father in completing the conversion process, one cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. Jesus is “the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (Hebrews 5:8-9).

Have you been converted? Let us assist you. Give us a call at 270-978-7569 or email us at greenplain@jgrenplainchurchofcirst.org. Visit us this Sunday for drive-in services at 10:00 am in the north parking lot of our building located at 3980 Murray Paris Road in Hazel, KY.