



Cases of Conversion: Conversion of the Ethiopian Officer

Acts 8 contains two distinct cases of conversion. The first includes the conversion of many in the city of Samaria (8:5-12). The second includes the conversion of the Ethiopian officer (8:26-40). Both were taught the gospel by Philip and by his teaching of both groups we already learn an important lesson. Whether it be a whole city or one person, we must never discriminate in our obligation of teaching the gospel to the lost (Romans 10:14-17). Philip taught the gospel without consideration for the size of the crowd, the color of one's skin or the miles that had to be traveled.

So, as Philip travels down the road he finds an Ethiopian man riding in a chariot studying the book of Isaiah (Acts 8:26-28). Immediately, Philip asks an essential question to all those seeking to please the Lord, "Do you understand what you are reading?" (8:29-30). The eunuch replies with, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" (8:31). Just as Philip's question was essential, so was the attitude signified by the response of the eunuch. It is filled with humility which makes one teachable.

The passage the eunuch was reading was a prophecy referring to Jesus Christ. So, verse 35 emphasizes Philip picks up from that passage and "preached Jesus to him." Now, exactly what did that preaching include? It can be easily seen by the response of the Ethiopian officer and Philip's statements. Read carefully and see the plan of salvation revealed.

Acts 8:36-39, "And the eunuch said, 'See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?' Then Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water,...he went on his way rejoicing."

Belief in Jesus Christ, confession, and a water burial in baptism for the remission of sins. It does not get much plainer than that! Have you obeyed the Bible's plan of salvation?

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