

Sermon Text: Luke 16:19-31 Scripture, God's Instrument for Conversion

Scripture is God's instrument to convert sinners from the fleeting pleasures of this life to the eternal comforts of the life to come.

1) Everyone needs conversion (16:19-22).

- a) Love of money is not the only indication, but it is an especially telling indication of the need for conversion.
- b) The Rich Man—Sin of indifference and indulgence
- c) Lazarus—Completely cast upon the mercy of God
- d) Death comes to both.
 - i) Abraham's side—God's comfort in death
 - ii) Buried—Man's honor in death

2) Conversion requires a Divine change in nature (16:23-31).

- a) The torment of Hades did not change the Rich Man.
- b) The reading of Scripture did not change the Rich Man.
- c) A man raised from the dead would not change the Rich Man's brothers.
- d) No external power can convert sinners. Sinners require an internal change, a new creation, that only God can produce.

3) Scripture is the only instrument God has ordained for the conversion of sinners (16:29-31).

- a) God is the only Savior of sinners.
 - i) Formal/Ultimate Cause: Father's will in election
 - ii) Material Cause: Son's atoning death and resurrection
 - iii) Efficient Cause: Spirit's regeneration and renewal
 - iv) Instrumental Cause (Means): The Word of God
- b) Abraham insists on the sufficiency of Scripture for conversion.
 - i) Moses, the Law, lays out clearly what God requires of man.
 - (1) Morally informing the conscience; conviction of sin
 - (2) Need for a "circumcised heart" or renewed nature
 - ii) The Prophets expound and apply the Law in specific situations, calling for repentance unto life
 - (1) Expose sin by denouncing neglected duties and transgressions; pronouncements of God's just condemnation; call for repentance
 - (2) Promise of the gospel; hope of salvation
- c) Divine Gift of Hearing (Acts 16:14; John 6:44-45; 10:3-4, 26-27)
- d) Responsibility to Hear (Luke 16:29 "let them hear them")
- e) **Application:**
 - i) Remember, heaven and hell are eternal realities.
 - ii) Keep hearing God's Word.
 - iii) Scripture is the God-ordained instrument for evangelism and discipleship.
 - iv) Bible Intake: Prayer, reading/hearing in community, study, contemplation, memorization, believing and obeying

Doxology: "Forever, O LORD, Your Word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You have established the earth, and it stands fast. By Your appointment they stand this day, for all things are Your servants."
Psalm 119:89-91