

"SURPRISED BY CONVERSION"**Introduction**

1. Hosea (+ Amos) spoke to N. Kingdom
2. The prophecy:
 - (i) Israel's rejection
 - (ii) Call of the Gentiles
 - (iii) Israel's restoration
3. Something surprising in this text:
DOCTRINE: Conversion has its surprises

1. THE HOPEFUL STATE OF THE UNCONVERTED

- 1) "Mercy on her...not obtained mercy": it seems a contradiction – "one minute lost, the next saved; one moment dead, the next alive"
- 2) **OBSERVE**: The Christian v. Non-Christian way of thinking: One kind v. two kinds of person
- 3) Never despair of your unconverted friends – they may yet come to Christ
- 4) What hope do we have for them?
 - (i) God's power is creative: Gen. 1: "light"
 - (ii) God's grace is irresistible: TULIP
 - (iii) Grace utterly changes us: the faculties
APPLICATION: Never give up hope while they are alive

2. GOD'S SURPRISING WORK OF CONVERSION

- 1) We need to be reminded of this:
 - (i) we can despair of the lost
 - (ii) they can despair of themselves
 - (iii) the devil tells us, "No hope".
- 2) **TEXT**:
 - (i) wonderful "sowing"

- (ii) new situation of mercy
- (iii) complete change of heart!

- 3) **ILLUSTRATION**: John Newton's dream (3 surprises)
- 4) All this is borne out by the facts:
 - (i) Peter's sermon: scoffing changed to faith
 - (ii) Paul's conversion: a total change if ever there was one
- 5) **TEXT**: one minute, far off; now, made near.
ILLUSTRATION: Legion – look at the total change!
- 6) So, God assures us He can do all this:
"I am not religious" ———▶ "Christ is mine"

APPLICATION

1. You must not say, "I am past all hope"
2. God can surprise you, whatever you have been
3. God can do wonders with the gospel:
 - a. base metal into gold
 - b. cannibals into Christians
 - c. church-goers into real believers

3. THE WONDERFUL ASSURANCE OF A CONVERT

- 1) God's word is creative – he pronounces and it is done: "Let there be grace!"
- 2) Man's word is proof of this divine change: "Thou art my God"
Q.: Does man choose God? Yes, and No.
Explain: Man only chooses God after God has changed his heart.
- 3) The convert now knows God and rejoices: "Thou art my God"
- 4) This assurance is a wonderful thing – to know that we know God
APPLICATION: God can do all this for you!
ILLUSTRATION: Dunkie Donaldson – is not all this just amazing?

CONCLUSION

But it is here in the **text**.

O seek the Lord till it is true of you and of all your family.

PSALM

107: 1 – 8

107: 10 – 15

107: 40 – 43