

## **CONVERSION FROM HEATHENISM**

This lesson will conclude the study of the Book of Titus. In October, we will begin a six-part study of Genesis 1-11.

Today's lesson entitled; Conversion from Heathenism is taken from the following four names listed in our lesson text (Artemas, Tychicus, Zenos, and Apollos). These four men were part of Paul's mission team.

These four names reflect the religious thinking of their parents and the cultural influence of what their parents wished for their children. These four Greek names reveal their conversion from a heathenistic culture by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- Artemas goddess of hunting, sister of Apollo
- Tychicus goddess of fortune
- Zenas gift of Zeus
- Apollos god of light, healing, youthful manly beauty

<b>This lesson will study SIX aspects of Conversion from Heathenism.</b>
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### **1. We will begin by defining heathenism for this study. We are not referring to an uncivilized or aborigine people.**

The World Book Dictionary: "A person who does not believe in the God of the Bible; An unconverted member of a people or nation that has not acknowledged the God of the Bible."

**A heathen is anyone who volitionally rejects the divinely revealed truth regarding God at God consciousness (GC) and / or rejects the gospel of Jesus Christ at gospel hearing (GH).**

"In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know (oida / perf.a.ptc) not God and them that obey (hupakouo / p.a.ptc) not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Thess.1: 8)

"And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen (ta ethnos / Gentiles) by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, 'All nations (ta ethnos) shall be blessed in you.'" (Gal.3: 8; Gen.12: 3)

### **2. Heathenism seeks to establish a society and culture without the truth of the God of the Bible and the gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 17:24-27).**

"Now while Paul was waiting for them in Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he was beholding the city full of idols. So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present." (Acts 17:16-17)

Cultural heathenism results when there is a maximum number of personal heathens within a nation or section of a nation. This happened to the priest-nation of Israel whenever they rejected the truth of God's Word and substituted it for paganism practices (Lev.26: 12-17; 1 Cor.8: 4-6) and / or rejected the gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 7:51-60).

**3. The Plan of God decrees that everyone with Positive Volition (PV) at God Consciousness (GC) will receive a Gospel Hearing (GH).**

Every member of the human race will achieve God Consciousness (GC) because he is born in the image and likeness of God (Gen.1: 26; 1 Cor.11: 7; Acts 17:24-29).

“But in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right, is welcome to Him.” (Acts 10:35/ The Roman Gentile (heathen) Cornelius)

Cornelius was positive at GC (Acts 10:2-3) but confused about salvation (Acts 10:25-26). Thus he received a gospel hearing (GH) believed it and was saved (Acts 10:34-36, 39-40, 44-48).

Timothy was positive at GC, having been raised in a family of believers and received gospel hearing (GH), believed it and was saved (2 Tim.3: 15).

God is desirous that all members of human race be saved (2 Pet.3: 9; John 3:16; Rom.5: 8).

**4. The plan of God decrees that all members of the human race be redeemed from the slave market of Adamic sin on the basis of grace through faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ (Rom.5: 21-21; 6:23).**

**THE GOSPEL: Jesus Christ died for YOUR sins, was buried and raised on the third day to give everyone who believes eternal life (1 Cor.15: 1-4; Rom.1: 16; Eph.2: 8-9; Heb.2: 9; 1 Pet.3: 18; Titus 2:11).**

- Believing in God does not constitute salvation (James 2:19; Cornelius; Saul of Tarsus).
- Hearing the gospel does not constitute salvation (Judas Iscariot; rich young ruler).

“For I am not ashamed of the **gospel**, for it is the **power of God for salvation to everyone who believes**, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” (Rom.1: 16)

**5. The plan of God decrees that everyone who rejects the divinely revealed truth about God at God Consciousness (GC) or the gospel of grace salvation at Gospel Hearing (GH) enters into personal heathenism (Rom.1: 18-32; Ps.10: 4; 42:1-2; Eph.2: 12).**

At the point of personal heathenism, God is no longer responsible to provide additional divine enlightenment. (2 Thess.1: 8; Rom.1: 28; 2 Pet.2: 4-9; John 9:31).

**6. All church age Believers are ambassadors of Christ, carrying forth the divine enlightenment of the Gospel to the heathenistic world. (Matt.28: 19-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor.5: 18-21).**

God will either send the person with positive volition at GC or GH to the ambassador and / or send the ambassador to him (Acts 8:26-39; 10:34-52; Paul’s missionary trips in Acts).

When the sovereignty and omnipresence of God are involved, there are no remote parts of the world (Jer.23: 23-24; Jonah to Ninevah; Abraham from Mesopotamia; Moses from Egypt; Adema from Michigan; and so it goes).

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

“And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the **WHOLE WORLD**.” (1 John 2:2)