

Most of us have heard the slogan, “God allows U-turns.” If the Lord God is holy, he has a right to expect us to be as well (see 1 Peter 1:15-16). The Bible states that the Apostle Paul was **“testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ”** (Acts 20:28).

Yet, the popular gospel that “God loves you just as you are,” is often taken to mean that God *approves* of you just as you are. He doesn’t. The message that your sins must be forsaken if your life is to be consecrated for Him is seldom heard. If so, it is seldom obeyed. The God of the Bible is said to be **“holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners”** (Hebrews 7:26). The prophet Habakkuk prayed, **“Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity”** (Habakkuk 1:13). If God turned his eyes away as Christ bore our sins at Calvary (Psalm 22:1), sin has no place in a believer’s life either.

The Apostle Paul commended the Thessalonians saying how they **“turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God”** (1 Thes-salonians 1:9). Similarly, a saved fornicator needs to quit, a saved bartender needs a new job, a saved cult member needs a new church, etc. We should question any “conversion” that does not inspire a real hatred of wickedness.

If a man is truly sorry for his sins against God, his conversion will be accompanied by a rejection of those things that once were a curse to him. **“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation”** (2 Cor. 7:10).