Conversion Bibliography

A revised version of his 1981 book, calling for conversion of life.

Biblical Studies

Chapters 5 and 6 are especially useful in discussing what Dunn calls the beginning of salvation and the process of salvation.


Richard N. Longenecker (ed.), *The Road from Damascus. The Impact of Paul’s Conversion on His Life, Thought, and Ministry* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997)
Eleven studies which start from the Damascus Road Event and see what difference it made to Paul.

A helpful study of gospel stories through the lens of Rambo’s theory of conversion.

A comparison of the conversion experiences of Paul and the Twelve disciples, arguing that both models, event and process, are important and Biblical. His analysis of the Damascus Road event, which he calls a ‘vision’, focuses instead on the movement in conversion through insight-turning-transformation, which he draws from various discussions of psychology and religious experience. Includes a good discussion of the practical implications.

Kim is particularly interested in showing how the ‘Damascus Road Event’, where the risen Christ appears to Paul, lies at the heart of Paul’s apostolic calling. A technical discussion.

Evangelical account of conversion, partly concerned to counter what are seen as unbiblical views of conversion.


Historical Studies

Augustine, *Confessions*
The classic account of the conversion of an individual.


Discusses the massive growth in written conversion accounts in the 18th century and their importance for how conversion was understood.


Studies conversion from second to sixth centuries. He shows how the concept developed, but also continuity of concern to see change in behaviour, belief and belonging of potential converts.


Expounds the case for gradual conversion in historical sources, especially the Puritan tradition.


Interprets the Reformation in England as a call to conversion and tests this by examining the lives of individuals. Concludes that conversions involved an interplay of religious beliefs and political convictions.

**Sociological and Empirical Studies**


His Engel scale assessing where a person might be on a journey of faith was explicitly constructed on the basis that conversion is a process, though with a decisive point of repentance and commitment. It has undergone modification and critique as being over prescriptive. Can be explored on the web.


Hugely influential study of how adults came to faith in Britain in 1990/1

Technical Report:


Highlights issues across world religions, though Christianity predominates, offering theoretical frameworks, histories of conversion in a variety of religions, and contemporary case studies.


Influential article setting out a model of a convert, though from study of a religious cult, not a mainstream religion.


Helpful essays on conversion to and, from and within Christianity.


Essays exploring conversion from a range of perspectives, including psychological and

A key text which synthesised and progressed the debate on the nature of conversion.


Review article setting out possible social psychological factors in conversion.


Another important article, arguing that ‘interpersonal bonds’ are as important in conversion as provision for the convert for their personal deprivations. Again shows how much of this research has been done on cults and sects.

http://www.jstor.org/view/00029602/dm992654/99p0166t/0


A critique of *Finding Faith Today* and discussion of ordinands coming to faith