Date: 4/2/16

Title: Conversion: A Home Run

Theme: When a sinner is converted, his life changes. Instead of going directly away from God, he goes directly toward Him.

Object: Baseball, glove, bat, Red Sox shirt.

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

The apostle Paul wrote these words in a letter to the Christian church in a city called Corinth.

What he is saying in this verse is that if we know Jesus and trust Him and love Him, we become different people.

Jesus changes us from people who love to disobey God and disobey His commandments, to people who love God, and love His commandments, and want to obey Him.

It’s a change that we call conversion.

Do you know what special day is coming up this Monday, April 4th?

It’s opening day for the Boston Red Sox baseball team.

They play the first game of the season against the Cleveland Indians at 4:10 in the afternoon.

Our new pitcher David Price will be on the mound pitching for the Sox.

The pitcher is a very important member of a baseball team.

He tries to strike out all the hitters from the opposing team.

[Explain windup, pitch, strike zone, curve ball, knuckle ball, slider, fastball, change up, etc.]

A good pitcher can throw a fast ball that goes 100 mph!

Now I’m going to be the hitter with the bat.

As the ball comes over the plate, I swing with all my might.

And if I hit the ball right on the center of the bat, the ball sails over the fence for a home run.

So a baseball that’s going 100 mph in one direction stops the instant it hits the bat and goes back in the opposite direction at 100 mph or more.

Conversion can be something like that.

Do you remember the apostle Paul?

Before he was converted he hated Christians. He was rounding up Christians and putting them in jail. He was there when the Christian Stephen was stoned to death, holding the coats of the people who were throwing the stones and cheering them on. He was on his way to Damascus to arrest Christians there and throw them in jail.

But on the way, God not only stopped him but turned him around.

Instead of hating and persecuting Christians, he became a Christian and the greatest missionary in the Bible.

The same thing happens to everyone that becomes a Christian. They get converted and turned around.

Before we know Jesus, we are all running away from God. We love ourselves instead of God.

So we disobey His commandments and travel the broad way to destruction.

But when we meet Jesus and accept Him as our Savior, He changes us from going the wrong way to going the right way.

It’s just like turning a fast ball into a home run.

Would you like Jesus to hit a home run with you?

Let’s ask Him to change our direction in life!