

You Must Be Born Again

Introduction:

- A. A young woman would not study with me if I was not a “born again Christian.”
- B. Read Jesus’ discussion with Nicodemus on the new birth. - John 3:1-10
- C. We can and should understand the new birth. - John 3:9-10
- D. To be saved, we must be born again. - John 3:3,5,7
- E. What are the method and nature of the new birth?

I. Background

- A. Nicodemus - John 3:1-2
 - 1. Pharisee: smug, self-righteous?
 - 2. ruler of Jews
 - a. looking for material kingdom
 - b. looking for honored citizenship by virtue of Abrahamic descent and self-righteousness
 - 3. His confession did not go far enough, for Jesus is more than a teacher from God. - John 8:24,58
- B. Jesus’ reply arrested his attention and pointed him to the nature of the kingdom and the requirements for citizenship in it. - John 3:3
- C. Nicodemus posed two questions, and Jesus answered them in order. - John 3:4

II. How (Method) of New Birth - John 3:5 (one new birth both of water and Spirit)

- A. What is the part of the Spirit? - Romans 8:14; 1 Peter 1:22-23; James 1:18; 1 Corinthians 4:15; John 1:12-13; 1 Corinthians 12:13
- B. What is the part of water?
 - 1. Is this figurative water? - cf. John 7:38-39
 - a. In John 7 Jesus identifies the water as figurative; not so in John 3.
 - b. Substitute the word “spirit” for “water” in John 3:5 and see if it makes sense.
 - 2. Does “and” mean “even”? - Name one standard translation that so renders it.
 - 3. Does this refer to physical birth? - cf. John 1:13
 - 4. With what element of the gospel is water associated? - Acts 10:47-48; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26-27

III. Nature of the New Birth - John 3:6-8

- A. It is the inner man that is born anew. - John 3:6;; cf. Ephesians 4:22-24
- B. This part of man is like the wind. - John 3:7-8; cf. 1 Corinthians 2:11
- C. This brings us into a spiritual relationship.
 - 1. new creature - 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - 2. citizen of spiritual kingdom - Romans 14:17
 - 3. child and heir - 1 John 3:1; Romans 8:16-17; 1 Peter 1:3-5

Conclusion:

- A. If you would be saved, you must be born anew.
- B. If you through faith will be baptized into Christ, you will be born again.
- C. Will you not enter the kingdom and become a child and heir of God today?