

THE NEW BIRTH

John 3:1-13

INTRO: There is much said in the New Testament about the new birth. Notice some other Scriptures that speak of the new birth. 1 Pet. 1:23; 2 Cor. 5:17. As we read our text, there are some points on which we must agree.

Notice some points in which we have agreement.

1. Man must be born again.
2. The New Birth is a personal duty: "Ye must be born again." John 3:7.
3. The New Birth is the way into the kingdom. John 3:5.
4. Those who are born again enjoy sonship. John 1:12; 1 Cor. 4:15.
5. Nicodemus was a distinguished Jew; he was a Pharisee through and through. He was an honorable member of the Sanhedrin Court.
6. Subjects of the kingdom do not become so by right of physical birth, nor by offices held in the affairs of life, nor by any position occupied in worldly matters.

I. WHAT CONSTITUTES THE NEW BIRTH?

- A. It is not "Spontaneous Generation." It is not a sudden outburst of a mysterious happening.
- B. It is not something "Better Felt Than Told."
- C. It is not a mere reformation, but rather a recreation.
- D. It is not a "Big Flare," and then an "Ash-Heap."
- E. Note the words of finality: "Ye Must Be Born Again."
- F. The New Birth is the one way to enter into the kingdom. John 3:3; John 3:5.
- G. The New Birth is a change of state. It is a transition. To illustrate: It is a marriage. The Christian is married to Christ. Christ is the husband; the Church the wife. Eph. 5:23. The Christian is reconciled by being a new creature in Christ. He is grafted into the vine. Rom. 11:17-24. He is adopted. Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:5; Eph. 1:5.
- H. By the New Birth, we are sons and daughter, a relationship not enjoyed by angels.
- I. The seed impregnates (Luke 8:11) and precedes birth.

II. WHO AND HOW ARE WE BORN AGAIN OF GOD?

- A. Who is born of God?
 1. The believer. 1 John 5:1-2.
 2. He who loves. 1 John 4:7.
 3. The doer of righteousness. 1 John 2:29.
 4. These are the characteristics of one born again.
- B. How is one born again?
 1. He is born again (not physical birth). John 3:3; John 3:7.
 2. He is born of the water and the Spirit. John 3:5.

3. He is born of God. 1 John 5:1.
 4. He is born of the will of God. John 1:13.
 5. Only one birth is involved. Even though different terms are used, they are equal to each other.
- C. The believer is born of God. He must be a particular believer. 1 John 5:1.
1. Devils believe, but do not qualify. James 2:19.
 2. The Chief Rulers do not qualify. John 12:42.
 3. King Agrippa would not qualify. Acts 26:27.
 4. The believer we are considering is given the power to become a son of God. He is not a son just by believing. John 1:12.
- D. The believer in 1 John 5:1 is the lover in 1 John 4:7.
1. The lover must love the right one, God. He must love the right things. Heb. 1:9.
 2. Those "Born Again" are forbidden to love the world. John 2:15.
 3. This lover is described in 1 John 5:3.
 4. The lover in 1 John 4:7 is said "To Know God." 1 John 4:7.
 5. He who "knows" God is also described as a "keeper" of God's commandments. 1 John 2:3-5.
- E. The "believer," the "lover," is said to do righteousness. 1 John 2:29. This is not our own righteousness (man-made), but God's.
- CONCL: No person can go to Heaven unless he has been "Born Again," born twice. The second birth is spiritual. Do you believe Jesus is the Christ? Would you confess, repent, and be baptized to be born again. Without the New Birth one cannot go to Heaven.