

YOU NEED TO KNOW

BECOMING A DISCIPLE THROUGH THE DOCTRINES OF GOD
KNOWING WHAT YOU BELIEVE AND WHY YOU BELIEVE IT

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

ALL ABOUT BEING BORN AGAIN – PART 3

Knowing what you believe and why you believe it.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Bible, Gospel, Salvation, Revelation, Maturity.

Introduction to the Doctrine of Regeneration

John 3:1-7

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**" 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 **Do not marvel that I said to you, "You must be born again."** 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." 9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? 11 Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. 12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that **whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.** 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 **But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."**

YOU NEED TO KNOW

ALL ABOUT BEING BORN AGAIN

1.) What does it mean to be Born Again?

1a.) You need the new life from above

1b.) You receive that new life from God

1c.) You live your new life for the things of God

2.) Why do you have to be Born Again?

2a.) Because you are separated from God

2b.) Because you are heading in the wrong direction

2c.) Because you cannot get there from here

YOU NEED TO KNOW ALL ABOUT BEING BORN AGAIN

3.) How can You be Born Again?

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "**HOW** can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory**, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

"Paul had spoken to them before and told them "that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies must die – because as they are, they could not function in eternity."

HOW CAN YOU BE BORN AGAIN?

3a.) You would have to be honest

Remember Now – Jesus was speaking to Nicodemus.

This was a divine appointment for our benefit – Understand this with me - - According to Jesus Christ, Nicodemus was lacking what was needed to gain entrance into heaven.

John 3:2-4a

This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "**Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.**" 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "**HOW?**"

Nicodemus was **BECOMING** very aware that he was lacking something terribly important.

- (1) Being a Jew – He had access to the traditions of his fathers.
- (2) Being of the religious rulers – he had access to the word of God.
- (3) He would have been wealthy (4) powerful (5) he was much sought after.

Mark 8:36-37

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? **37** Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

There's A Sense Of Crisis Here.

Whenever a soul is being awakened to faith - - there comes a deep sense of **dread**, of **hopelessness**, and of its **depravity**, once the light of the Gospel begins to shine.

It' s in that moment of crisis that we are **convinced** of our great need and **convicted** of our personal sin. That' s when we come to the place of **confession** of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Philippians 3:4-8

though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

Jesus didn't ask Paul to give up anything, yet in that moment when Paul encountered Jesus Christ, he realized that there was nothing to give to God, nothing from his past that would do; no great achievement mattered. He came empty handed before God.

What Does It Mean To Be Honest With Myself?

This is where pride gets in the way. Why, because we are often so fearful about what others think, that it influences our thinking. We tend to not look honestly at our own lives. We need to ask the big questions about who we are, what we believe in, and just who is the real me?

If I'm going to be honest with myself, that would require me judging myself against some standard.

We all have "Selective Memories" when it comes to how we see ourselves. (1) We judge ourselves in light of others around us. (2) Then we judge ourselves in light of the herd. (3) We then adjust the scale, the bar to "qualify ourselves".

Luke 18:9-14

Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: **10** "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. **11** The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, "God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. **12** I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' **13** And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" **14** I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other;

We can "conveniently forget."

James 1:23-25

For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; **24** for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. **25** But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

But WHY do we conveniently forget?

Jeremiah 17:9-10

"The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? **10** I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

You would need to take a long, hard, honest look at your own life.

Psalm 46:10a

Be still, and know that I am God;

Titus 3:4-7

But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, **5** not by works of righteousness which we have done, (*you can't earn His attention or favor*) but according to His mercy He saved us, (*because He is Himself merciful*) through the washing of regeneration (*the "being born again" event*) and renewing (*the re-making of our lives*) of the Holy Spirit, **6** whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** that having been justified (*been made, been declared sin-free*) by His grace we should become heirs (*co-receivers, co-beneficiaries*) according to the hope of eternal life.

This Brings Up the Doctrine of Election – We Are Joint Heirs With Jesus Christ Having Been **Adopted**

Romans 8:29

For whom He **FOREKNEW**, He also **PREDESTINED** to be conformed to the image of His Son,

Ephesians 1:3-5b

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed** us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, **4** just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, **5** **having predestined us to adoption** as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself,

We are the very possession of God.

1 Corinthians 3:16

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Romans 8:16-17

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are **children of God**, **17** and if **children, then heirs - heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

HOW CAN YOU BE BORN AGAIN?

3b.) You would have to be willing

But What Does It Mean To Be Willing?

In John 3:9

Nicodemus asks the question... "How can these things be?"

A willingness TO SEE your need for change.

(The rich young ruler knew that something was missing)

A willingness TO APPROACH God.

(Nicodemus was willing to come to Jesus personally)

A willingness TO HAND Him the reigns of your life.

(The demon possessed man in the tombs)

A willingness TO RECEIVE, accept, surrender, to His Authority.

(The centurion at Capernaum – only speak the word)

Mark 9:23-24

Jesus said to him, **"If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."** 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, **"Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"**

When we come to Christ, (receive or surrender) - - when we come to Him we are exhibiting **faith** in Him, spiritually, emotionally, and of course – physically. **When we come to Him we bring all to Him.**

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: **13** who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

HOW CAN YOU BE BORN AGAIN?

3c.) You would have to be believing

What Am I To Be Believing In?

Think now, be honest, and be willing to hear this:

Every one of us, **has a belief system** and **an object, reason, or purpose** for our belief. The beliefs that each of us (**#1**) hold to, (**#2**) literally affects, and (**#3**) shapes (how) we think, (what) we do, and (why) we live as we do.

Nicodemus became a believer by and with a question and an answer.

He had always been a believer, just like you have always been a believer but in what, and in whom?

And Note Here:

Jesus Himself uses the Word of God to answer Nicodemus's questions of "How?"

John 3:9

Nicodemus answered and said to Him, **"How can these things be?"**

How does Jesus answer him? He gives him the Bible.

And as Moses **lifted up the serpent** in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

- John 3:14-15

John 12:32-33

And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."
33 This He said, signifying by **what (manner, mode)** death He would die.

By what manner, mode, of death will you die?

I' d like you to listen to me right now about something,

When you' re alongside the bed of a dying person, there is a strange dynamic in play. Their body is very much struggling to breathe and to move and to speak, **but the inside of them, the soul and spirit of them – is very much alive and not sick at all.** That' s the part of them that wants to have their questions answered. That' s the part of them that wants to know if heaven is real and does God really love them? Did Jesus die on the cross for their sins?

Isaiah 45:22

“Look to Me, and be saved,

What can I expect if I am to be Born Again?

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

John 3:21a

But he who does the truth comes to the light,

Guess what we know about Nicodemus?

He came to the light!

John 19:38-40

After this (the death of Jesus), Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus. **39** And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing (worship) a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. **40** Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury their dead.

>>> The **Cross**, The **Christ**, The **Call** <<<

————— *End of Study* —————

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