

“Born Again Christians”

John 3:1-8

Introduction:

- A. “Born again Christians” is a popular phrase these days.
 - 1. The only kind the Bible knows anything about.
 - 2. Usually today associated with some kind of mystical experience.
- B. “Born again” is just another way to refer to salvation.
 - 1. 1 Peter 1:18-23: “redeemed” (18); “purified” (22); “born again” (23).
 - 2. Can say same thing differently: Suit at cost; Suit at half price etc.
- C. New Birth said to consist of two elements:

Discussion:

I. The Spirit

- A. A spiritual birth rather than a fleshly one.
 - 1. Hard for Nicodemus to understand. (v. 4)
 - 2. Lord explains it (v. 5-8).
 - a. Describes the part of man born again - “so is everyone”, not “so is new birth”.
 - b. Does not describe some mysterious process.
- B. Born of the Spirit through the agency of gospel.
 - 1. Jesus simply state fact without giving details.
 - 2. The details are supplied by various New Testament references.
 - a. By the word - the gospel. (1 Pet. 3:23-25).
 - b. Begotten by the gospel. (1 Cor. 4:15).
 - c. Gospel revealed by Spirit. (Eph. 3:1-5; John 14:26; 16:13; 1 Pet. 1:12; 1 Cor. 2:11-13).

II. The Water.

- A. Water is considered to be figurative by many.
 - 1. A metaphor?
 - a. Two kinds: self-explanatory (Lk. 13:31,32) or explained (John 7:38,39).
 - b. Why is “Spirit” not also a metaphor?
 - c. If so, what does it represent? Butter-milk? Lemonade?
 - 2. Natural birth?
 - a. What puzzled Nicodemus. Jesus refutes the idea. (vs. 3-6)
 - b. Both “water” & “Spirit” part of being “born again” (comp. vs. 3 & 5).
 - c. Makes “water” of natural birth condition of salvation.
 - 3. If real water, how from above? Like John’s baptism. (Lk. 20:3-8).
- B. Water baptism is connected to salvation. (1 Pet. 3:20-21; Acts 8:36-38)

Conclusion:

- A. A born again Christian is one who obeys the gospel in water baptism.
- B. A born again Christians walks in a new life. (Rom. 6:4)