

“You must Be Born Again”

John 3:7

Introduction:

- A. Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, shows interest in kingdom of God.
 - 1. Jesus evidently perceived this interest and immediately addresses it (v, 3)
 - 2. May have heard of preaching about kingdom. (Cf. Matt. 3:1,2; 4:17).
 - 3. Told that he must be “born again” to “see” and “enter” the kingdom.
- B. The New Birth and the Kingdom of God are still hot topics today.
- C. Jesus’ words to Nicodemus offers us some special *insights* into being born again.

Discussion:

I. The Purpose for Being Born Again.

- A. To “enter” or “see” the kingdom of God (vv. 3,5)
 - 1. Natural birth had put Nicodemus in Jewish kingdom
 - 2. Needed new spiritual birth for new spiritual kingdom.
- B. Kingdom prophesied in O.T. (Dan. 2:44).
- C. Kingdom established in first century. (Mark 9:1; Col. 1:13).
- D. Kingdom, church, and salvation.
 - 1. Kingdom, light, redemption and forgiveness tied together (Col. 1:12-14)
 - 2. Kingdom and church the same (Matt. 16:18,19).
 - 3. Church and salvation tied together. (Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23).

II. The Person Who Is Being Born Again.

- A. The inward man — the spirit. (vv. 4-8).
 - 1. Man is dual being (Matt. 10:28; 2 Cor. 4:16)
 - 2. Soul purified in new birth. (1 Pet. 1:22,23).
- B. Verse 8 describes person and not process of new birth — “so is *everyone*...”

III. The Process of Being Born Again.

- A. “Of water and the Spirit” (v. 5).
- B. Spirit operates through the gospel word in new birth (1 Pet. 1:23-25; 1 Cor. 4:15; cf. Eph. 6:17)
- C. Water and Spirit in great commission (Mk. 16:15,16).
 - 1. “Of the Spirit” = Gospel preached by Spirit (cf. 1 Pet. 1:12).
 - 2. “Of water” = Baptized (1 Pet. 3:20-21; Acts 8:36-38)
 - 3. “born again.” = saved.

IV. The Power Behind Being Born Again.

- A. The only begotten Son.
- B. Nicodemus still puzzled.
 - 1. Asks, “How can these things be?” (v. 9).
 - 2. Jesus answers that it can be because:
 - a. He is the Son from God. (vv. 11-13).
 - b. He would be lifted up (on cross) (vv. 14).
 - c. He would give eternal life those who believed (v. 16).

Conclusion:

- A. Do you believe in the Son of Man?
- B. Have you been born of water and the Spirit?
- C. Are you waiting for some “better felt than told” experience?
- D. Were those on Pentecost born again? What did they experience? (Acts 2:37-38, 41)