

Have You Been Born Again?

Dear Reader, you may think this is a foolish question, but I am not speaking of physical birth. I mean to ask, Have you been born of God? "Except a man be born again he can not see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3) I find the people in the gutters of sin often eager to hear the message of the new birth because they realize their lost condition. The people who are moral often say that they are good enough or else that by being good they will get into Heaven. However, in the Bible I do not find God saying this. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8)

If God permitted one to become a Christian and enter Heaven because of attainments in morality some people could be saved while others could not. But God measures us by perfection. Who would claim to be perfect as the Lord Jesus was? We may see two boys standing side by side as they wait to go to a banquet. One has fifty cents and the other has a quarter. Surely the one with fifty cents will get in even if the other one does not. Upon seeking entrance they find the admission price to be one dollar. The first boy had more than the second, but both were short. Neither could enter! Some people today seek entrance to Heaven because they have more attainments in morality than others, but all fall short. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) Thus God's Word says that not just one but all have fallen short!

The new birth is absolutely necessary, but many are believing that there are substitutes. Reformation, imitation, education, and confirmation are suggested. We know that we can go to a lumber yard, get a piece of timber, and carve or paint it after any fashion or plan. So we may see an unsaved person cut off, add on, or paint up his life by reformation and still be lost, because he can reform without being born of God. If I make money that is an imitation of the money made by the United States Government, I have counterfeit money. Likewise one who thinks he is saved by imitating some Christian has a counterfeit salvation which the Devil will gladly give to all who will take it.

Education is a great thing. But it is foolish to think that a person is saved because he has education. Some educated people are atheists and infidels. Hence education will not do as a substitute for the new birth. Then again we find so many thinking that they have a guarantee of salvation because they have been confirmed into some church after having gone through certain ceremonies, ordinances, or sacraments. When one is born again he should certainly be connected with some church in order to be able to work there for Christ. But through personal experience I can say that I had been connected with a church for several years before I was born again. Consequently, if you are a member of six or eight churches and are not born again you are still lost. I am afraid that there are literally thousands of Church members or so-called Christians who are on their way to Hell today.

Oh, friend, what joy and peace comes to us when we are born again. And when we are born again God gives

us evidence within our own hearts. It is not a matter of guess work, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the Children of God." (Romans 8:16) Let me call your attention again to the way of salvation as Jesus gave it in contrast to these false man-made substitutes. "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3)

We can reform, imitate, educate, and confirm into a Church without affecting the nature of man. But God wants to give us a new nature by the second birth. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new Creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (II Corinthians 5:17) Jesus made it possible for us to have the new birth when He died on the Cross, shedding His Precious Blood for our sins. When we trust Him as our personal Savior, He washes away our sins by His own Blood, giving us this new birth. "And without shedding of blood is no remission." (Hebrews 9:22) In the Spring, over in South Carolina and Georgia you may see peach tree trunks whitewashed to destroy insects. These tree trunks are beautiful until it rains, but then they are yellow and ugly. Many so called Christians are just whitewashed today. But the Lord Jesus washes us white with His own Blood when He imparts to us the new birth.

There is as much difference between a person who is born again and one who is not as there is between a hog and a sheep. You can wash and perfume a hog, put a red ribbon on it's neck, and put it in your parlor. But the minute it can get out it will go straight to the nearest mud hole. That is the hog's nature. Again you can do the same to a sheep and it will never get in the mud unless it falls in. Then as soon as possible it will get out. The man

who has not been born again loves sin just as the hog loves mud. But the man who has been born again hates sin just as the sheep hates the mud.

You may say that because you can not understand it, you will not trust Jesus that He may give you the new birth. That is foolish and dangerous! You can not explain how a black cow can eat green grass and give yellow butter and white milk. But you do not fail to eat butter and drink milk because you can not explain it. I can not explain the new birth, but I know that when I was a Hell-deserving sinner I trusted the Lord Jesus as my Personal Savior. He saved me; that is, He gave me the new birth.

I beg you to trust Jesus now and be saved! He will give you joy and peace unspeakable. Do it before it is too late! Jesus will be coming back soon! Be saved and ready to meet Him.

“Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.” (John 3:7) “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” (John 3:36) “And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” (Acts 16:31).

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