



Born Again Christians

Tim Canup

It is common in our world today to hear the phrase, “born again Christian.” This concept comes from Jesus’ statement made to Nicodemus in John chapter 3. Nicodemus came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him” (verse 2). In verse 3, Jesus said to him, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” This confused Nicodemus; he thought Jesus was speaking of a physical birth. Jesus, to clear up any confusion, further explained, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” This new birth consists of water and the Spirit, but what is involved in this? Whatever it is, we must be sure we have come to an accurate conclusion because without this new birth, it is impossible for us to enter into the Kingdom of God.

From this passage, many have distinguished two separate births; saying that the birth of the water is our physical birth into this world and that birth of the Spirit is our spiritual birth. However, Jesus made it plain that He was not speaking of a physical birth, but rather a spiritual birth, which consists of water and of the Spirit. One is born of water by being baptized into water for the remission of our sins (Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, Galatians 3:26-27; I Peter 1:23). It is NOT the water that takes away one’s sins; rather, a person contacts the blood of Christ in obedience to the command to be baptized (please read Revelation 1:5; Romans 6:3-6). Jesus mentioned that one is born of the Spirit because it is the Holy Spirit that revealed the command to be baptized in God’s Word (I Corinthians 2:6-13).

If one has obeyed the commandment of God to be baptized, that person has been born again and is a Christian. One cannot become a Christian without being born again, thus one who is a Christian has been born again. To say one is a born again Christian is redundant.

If you would like to know more about what to do to be born again (to become a Christian), or if you would like to enroll in a correspondence course by mail (no cost or obligation to you), please return this coupon to: Back To The Bible, 221 Barnett Street, West Jefferson, NC 28694 or visit us at: www.wjchurchofchrist.org.

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