



The New Birth Tim Canup

Nicodemus came to Jesus one night and acknowledged:
“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”

(John 3:2). Jesus said to him, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). This confused Nicodemus because he tried to connect this with physical birth. Jesus corrected him in verse 5 by saying, “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.”

Many have tried to make the “new birth” something that it is not. In order to come to an accurate understanding about any subject, we must look at every passage in the Bible about that subject. The information in John 3 is not all that the Bible has to say about the “New Birth.” Let us notice some other passages.

In I Corinthians 4:15, Paul wrote, “For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have **begotten you through the gospel**. In James 1:18, we read, “Of his {God’s} own will **begat he** us with the **word of truth...**” The phrase “word of truth,” is simply another phrase to describe the Gospel or Word of God. Peter wrote, “Seeing ye have purified your souls in **obeying the truth** through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: **Being born again**, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, **by the word of God**, which liveth and abideth for ever...And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you” (I Peter 1:22-23, 25b).

Paul said that IN Christ we are new creatures (II Corinthians 5:17). He also said in Romans 6:3-4, “Know ye not, that so many of us as were **baptized into Jesus Christ** were

baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should **walk in newness of life.**” When Jesus said we MUST “be born of water,” He was describing waters of baptism, not our physical birth; “of the Spirit” describes the commands and instructions revealed to us in the New Testament by the Holy Spirit.

If you would like to know more about the commandments that are given in God’s Word, which will wash away your sins and put you into the church that belongs to Him, or if you would like to enroll in an in-home Bible study or 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 online at: www.wjchurchofchrist.org

- Yes, I am interested in a correspondence course by mail.
- Yes, I am interested in an in-home Bible study.
- Yes, I would like a free copy of the *Searching For Truth* DVD

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () - _____