

## BORN AGAIN

Greetings precious people, this week we are going to look at the subject of what the Word of God the Bible calls “born again”. This term has been used in a number of different ways over the years by car manufacturers, clothing lines, personalities, businesses, etc. All use it in attempt to describe a change, new birth of a product or career.

Let us look at what the significance of this term has and why Jesus used it as a quality and requirement for a person to go to Heaven. In John 3:1-7 we read of a conversation that Jesus had with a religious man. “There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is ***born again***, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

What did Jesus mean by this? Nicodemus seemed to ask a good question of how can a grown man be born again. Unlike the manufactures of our day, the “born again” that Jesus is referring to does not take place on a designers drawing board or on an assembly line in a factory rather by the Spirit of God.

When God created mankind, Adam and Eve, He created them in His own image. As God is a three fold being: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit so man is a three fold being: spirit, soul, and body. God placed man in the Garden of Eden and told him he could eat of all the trees of the field except one, the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. God promised them that in the day that they disobey Him and eat of that tree they would surely die.

Adam and Eve ate and immediately they died spiritually and also began the long process of dying physically. Now rather than being a three fold being they were only a 2/3 being. The spirit part of them was dead and was in need of being made alive again or as Jesus put it “born again”. Thus Jesus said, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

Everyone is born of the flesh as a result of a sexual relationship between a man and woman (except Jesus of course who was conceived of the Holy Spirit). Being born of the flesh as we all have been also causes us to have the same fallen sinful nature of Adam and Eve. We all come into this world dead spiritually in need of a spiritual birth. Without this spiritual birth as Jesus says, “he or she cannot see God”. The only way to Heaven is by way of the spiritual birth.

Many refuse this truth and insist on getting to Heaven by their own doing of good works, sacrifices, the giving of certain amounts of money etc. This is what religion teaches, that a person can get to Heaven by something they do themselves, you can earn your way there.

A growing number of people profess not even to believe in Heaven. Recently my family and I were in the New England states vacationing when we saw a car with a bumper sticker which read: “I have been born once and that is good enough for me.” A sticker next to this proclaimed, “I am an atheist”.

Being born again; born of the Spirit; born from above is a work of the Spirit of God. It happens when a person realizes that all their attempts to get themselves to Heaven come short of what God demands. He demands that we be perfect even as Jesus is perfect. This means that we have sinned against God and are in rebellion against Him. This is where repentance begins. Repentance continues as we have a change of heart concerning our sin, it grieves us which must be followed by a change of direction, a turning away from sin.

As this occurs and we realize that we cannot save ourselves we turn in faith/trust in the one (Jesus) who died in place of our sin and ask Him to come into our life and save us, to be our Lord and Savior. When this occurs the Spirit of God comes into our being and we become alive spiritually.

Dear ones, have you experienced this second birth? If not I entreat you to do so right now!

Drew Macintyre is associate pastor of Calvary Chapel of Alpine and can be reached at 619-445-2589, or [ccalpine@juno.com](mailto:ccalpine@juno.com)