

THE NEW BIRTH -- THAT FORM OF DOCTRINE

(Please study all Scriptures and their context. King James Version is used unless otherwise noted)

All have sinned (Romans 3:23) and are therefore in need of salvation because our sins have separated us from God (Isaiah 59:1,2). Man must come back to God through obedience to His will (Hebrews 5:9). Another way of looking at this is when man is in sin, he is **dead spiritually** (Ephesians 2:1-5) and the alien sinner must be **born again**. As Jesus said to Nicodemus "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"(John 3:3).

By this verse we can understand that man **must** be "born again" in order to enter **into** the kingdom (there is no other way of entrance). To enter into the kingdom is to be saved (Colossians 1:13,14). Seeing then the gravity of the new birth, all people should seek diligently to understand it and be born again. How is man "born again"? Note that Jesus said: "Except a **man** be born **again**." Jesus said, "man" not a child. "Born **again**" this has nothing to do with the first birth which was physical. The "new birth" is spiritual.

Jesus further said: "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" (John 3:5). It is one birth with two elements: "water" and "the Spirit." **To be born of the Spirit is to obey the words of the Spirit** (cf. John 16:13; II Timothy 3:16,17). This is seen clearly in I Peter 1:22,23: "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: {23} **Being born again**, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, **by the word of God**, which liveth and abideth for ever." Man is "born again" by obeying the word of God, not just believing (cf. James 2:14-26)!

In order to be saved (born again) man must hear the truth, believe (Romans 10:17) the truth and obey the truth: which includes repenting of sins (Luke 13:3), confessing Christ (Matthew 10:32,33), and being baptized "for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Peter 3:21; Mark 16:16, etc.).

Paul said to the Romans: "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. {18} Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom 6:17,18). Please note, they "were the servants of sin," but they **repented** (stopped sinning) and **obeyed** with the understanding (cf. John 6:45) "that form of doctrine." What is that form of doctrine? It is the gospel of Christ which is "the power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16). The gospel in its simplest form is the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (please read I Corinthians 15:1-4 and note that they were saved by the gospel).

Paul said to the Romans that they "were made free from sin" **when they obeyed** "that form of doctrine," which is the gospel (cf. I Peter 1:22-25). **It is a most beautiful picture when you read and accept what the Bible teaches on this matter.**

- ♥ Jesus died for our sins - we are to die to sin (repent, cf. Romans 6:6,11; Luke 13:3).
- ♥ Jesus was buried - we are to be buried with Him by baptism (Romans 6:4).
- ♥ Jesus was raised from the dead - when one submits to scriptural baptism he is raised from that watery grave, by the power of God, to newness of life (Romans 6:4,5; Colossians 2:12).

Friends, this is the new birth. **To "be born of water" is to be baptized scripturally.** Scriptural baptism is that which is taught in the Bible which was delivered by the Holy Spirit (II Timothy 3:16, 17). Scriptural baptism is for people who are capable of understanding and believing (Mark 16:16; John 3:3,5). It is a burial in water (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; Acts

8:38; 10:47,48). Scriptural baptism is “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Peter 3:21; Mark 16:16).

When one obeys the gospel of Christ he is saved and is thus added to the church, the kingdom (Acts 2:37-41, 47; Colossians 1:13,14). He has been born into the family of God (cf. I Timothy 3:15; Ephesians 3:15; I Corinthians 12:13).

I know that these things are not taught in the denominational world and that you may have serious questions. I ask that you study this matter with an open mind and an honest heart (Luke 8:15 cf. Acts 17:11). Your soul is far too valuable to be lost by the doctrines of men (Matthew 15:9; II John 9).

I would be most happy to answer any questions you may have. Just send me an email and I will do my best to give you a Bible answer. Please study Romans 6. May God bless you in your honest and sincere study of His Word. -Perry