



**THE
NEW
BIRTH**



THE LORD and Saviour, Jesus Christ, said to Nicodemus, a Jewish leader and teacher, "Ye must be born again". He told him also, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God". In order to see heaven at last, not only Nicodemus, but every one of us must be born again.

In his ignorance, Nicodemus thought that by this new birth, Jesus meant a second physical birth. Jesus showed him that He meant that a person had to be spiritually renewed by the power of God the Holy Spirit. The Gospel of John, chapter three, tells us about this conversation between Nicodemus and Christ.

What is this new birth? It is the implanting of spiritual life by God's Holy Spirit in the soul of a person.

Unless we are born again we are spiritually dead and sinful, and are unwilling and unable to comply with the Word of God and to accept God's way of salvation. When the Holy Spirit implants spiritual life in the souls of sinners He also convinces them by the Word of God, of the evil of their sin, and of its dreadful consequence of bringing the wrath of God upon them forever. By the same Word, He brings them to realise also that there is only one way of salvation: by trusting in Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sins of His people by His death at Calvary.

All such will most certainly trust in Jesus Christ alone for the pardon of their sins and acceptance

into heaven at last. They will be truly sorry for their sinful past, and will love the Lord Jesus and endeavour always to obey His teachings in the Bible.

Are you born again? There can be no substitute for the new birth. Nicodemus was a great churchman, but that was not enough – he had to be born again. He taught others about the Word of God, but he was spiritually dead and had to be born again.

How is it with *you*? Are you like Nicodemus: a church person but not born again? Remember that except you be born again you cannot enter heaven when you take your leave of this world. You may be a church member of long standing, a counsellor in the church, a willing helper at many church activities, or even doing the work of a pastor, an elder, or a deacon, but all this will not bring you to heaven. You must be born again! Let me ask, *Are you born again?*

The Saviour, having told Nicodemus that he must be born again, proceeded to direct him about the necessity of believing in Himself as the only Saviour. He said, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that *whosoever believeth* in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is

condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:16-13).

What the Saviour taught Nicodemus was blessed to him. When the Holy Spirit renewed Nicodemus, He enabled him to understand about sin and salvation, and led him to believe in the Saviour, and follow His teachings. Later on, he was one of the chief attendants at the burial of Christ. The fact that Nicodemus was now believing in, and showing love and devotion to, Christ and His teachings, showed that he was truly born again.

If you are born again you too will believe in, and love, Christ and His teachings. Reader, if you know not these things, pray earnestly to God to teach you by His Word and Holy Spirit, for "except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God".

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