

Jesus Christ: Lord of Life Ye Must Be Born Again John 3.1-21

[The purpose of the Book of John,]

[John 20:30-31 ³⁰ And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: ³¹ But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.]

[Ultimately this Purpose for this Book of the New Testament is that you be Born Again.]

*[John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**]*

[When we first hear this term “Born Again” we cannot help but wonder as Nicodemus did,]

[John 3:4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?]

[The whole idea of being Born Again confounds the rational mind. Yet, Born Again Christians have an intimate understanding of this term and its realities. So just what is this New Birth?]

In our text we discover,

A. The Man of the New Birth (vs 1-3) [– *There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: ² The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto 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. ³ Jesus answered and said unto him, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.** – Our Lord Jesus Christ, God with us, states this truth so emphatically that one must sit up and pay attention to what our Lord said and meant.]*

Acts 4.12

[Our Lord states that there is this thing He called being Born Again and without this New Birth NO ONE can see the kingdom of God.]

[This sounds awfully narrow in comparison to the universal declarations of our worlds many deceivers, who say **All Roads Lead To Heaven.**]

[The Lord Jesus Christ and the Word of God clearly declare that, **Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God (vs 3).** This sounds strangely similar to,]

Acts 4.12

*[John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: **no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**]*

[And to,]

*[Acts 4:12 Neither is there **salvation in any other:** for there is **none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**]*

[What name is that?]

*[Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, **that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,** whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, . . .]*

[Again our Lord said,]

*[Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God (vs 3).**]*

[Therefore we understand that our Lord Jesus Christ is the man of the New Birth.]

[It has been said that **a man who is born once must die twice, but a man who is born twice will only die once.**]

[When people come to the Lord Jesus Christ and see Him as the Lord He is and the Savior He is, they are born again and they are never the same again.]

[Consider,]

1. [Nicodemus (vs 10-12; John 19.39)]

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A. The Man of the New Birth

[John 3:10-12 ¹⁰ *Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?* ¹¹ *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.* ¹² *If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, **if I tell you of heavenly things?**]*

[Nicodemus did not understand what our Lord was talking about, at first, until our Lord told him that this new birth was not of this natural world. Our Lord said it was supernatural and heavenly in nature. The New Birth was a God thing.]

[Then our Lord told Nicodemus how to be saved. Jesus said,]

[John 3:16-18 ¹⁶ *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.* ¹⁷ *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.* ¹⁸ *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.]*

[How did Nicodemus respond? He was born again, he was saved, he was redeemed by the blood of the lamb. How do I know?]

[John 19:39 *And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight.]*

[When they were burying our Lord Nicodemus was there and helping at great personal expense both financially and positionally.]

[Whenever people came into intimate contact with our Lord they were transformed, which must be the result of the New Birth.]

2. [The Demoniac of Gadarea (Mark 5.1-17)]
3. [The Adulterous Woman (John 8.3-11)]
4. [The Samaritan Woman (John 4.4-26)]

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A. The Man of the New Birth

[There is only one man who is able to make a real change in people.]

[Yet, all people need the man of the New Birth to work the miracle of His love within them.]

B. The Must of the New Birth (vs 7; Rev 3.14,17,20) [- Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye must be born again.]**

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A. The Man of the New Birth

1. [The Need of Humanity - **The need of humanity is a spiritual need.]**

[**Illustration** - You can take a tomato plant and put it in a large bird cage, give it a wood peg swing, and put bird feed in the cage with it and it will not be a parrot. Why? Because it is a plant and not a bird. Likewise, you can take a cat put it in a house, give it free food every day, allow it to sit on all the best furniture in the house, but it will not become a man. Why? Because it is an animal and not human. By the same token, you can take a man and put him in church robes, baptize him, pray over him and sit him in a church pew for a lifetime and it will not make him a Christian - it will not make him spiritual. He must be born again.]

[People don't need religion, they need transformation. People need the New Birth.]

2. [The Mind of Humanity - Physical inferiority and Spiritual superiority.]

[**Illustration** - A Lady approached her pastor and said, "Pastor, how am I going to get the robe over my wings in heaven?" The pastor replied, "I don't think that will be the problem. The problem will be how will you get the halo over your horns."]

[People tend to think too highly of themselves. We don't often see ourselves the way God sees us before we are saved. As lost, undone, wretched and poor.]

[**Revelation 3:14** **And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;]**

[Revelation 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:]

[Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.]

[The people of the Laodicean Church did not see themselves as God saw them. They did not realize that Jesus was not with them, Jesus was on the outside of that Church knocking to get in.]

[Where are you with Christ today?]

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- A. The Man of the New Birth**
- B. The Must of the New Birth**

C. The Mystery of the New Birth - Two divine comparisons (vs 4) [– Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?]

1. The Births of Life (vs 5-6) [– Jesus answered, 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. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. – There has been some debate over verse five, about what it means to be born of what. Clearly verse six reveals verse five. To be born of water is not baptism, it is our physical birth; natural birth.]

[So if you will be in heaven or enter into, see, and enjoy the wonders of God's eternal kingdom then you **Must be,**]

- [Born Physically]
- [Born Spiritually]

2. The Blowing of the Wind (vs 8) [– The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. – How many here have ever seen the wind? The truth is that nobody has ever seen the wind. One cannot see the invisible. What you see is the effects of the wind. You

see the leaves moving, the trees swaying, the clouds lofting along, and the waves rolling. These are all the effects of the winds.]

[So it is with the new birth, one cannot see someone born again but one can see the effects of the new birth. These include,]

- [A Love for the Lord Jesus Christ]
- [A Love and desire for the Word of God]
- [A Desire to Obey and Surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ]
- [A Love and Desire for the Church that Christ loves]
- [A Strong Desire to live a right life – A hatred of sin and sinfulness]

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- A. The Man of the New Birth**
- B. The Must of the New Birth**
- C. The Mystery of the New Birth**

D. The Marks of the New Birth (vs 16-21)

- 1. A new Perspective (vs 20-21)** – *For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.*²¹ *But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.* – The way a Born Again Christian looks at things is just different. Why?

*[2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; **behold, all things are become new.**]*

[Without spiritual birth man spends his time searching for the meaning of life. With spiritual birth man spends his time understanding and fulfilling the meaning of life.]

- 2. A New Position (John 1.12)** [– You have been born into the family of God.]

[John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:]

- 3. A New Presence (Rev 3.20)** [– The indwelling presence of Christ, a mystery.]

[Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.]

4. A New Prospect (2 Pet 3.11-15) - Hope for the future.

[2 Peter 3:11-15 ¹¹ Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, ¹² Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. ¹⁴ Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. ¹⁵ And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;]

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- D. The Marks of the New Birth**
 - 1. A New Perspective
 - 2. A New Position
 - 3. A New Presence

E. The Means of the New Birth (vs 16; Rom 10.9)

[John 3:16 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.]

[Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.]

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