

What think Ye of the Bible?
Part 13

The New Birth, Why is it necessary?

Last week I posted an article giving a basic introduction to the New Birth. We looked at Jesus' imperative to the "religious" Nicodemus, namely "You Must be Born Again." There is no eternal life or entrance into the Kingdom of God unless one IS BORN AGAIN.

We clearly understand Jesus' Command. It is neither a suggestion, nor an option, instead, it is a direct command. Thus, it behooves everyone to heed this IMPERATIVE. (WOE to those who hold to liberal theology, demythologizing Holy Spirit inspired Scripture).

But, why is the New Birth such a necessity?

Before we answer this question we must first consider God's attributes. These are His Holiness, Righteousness, Justice, Love, Grace, Mercy, Wrath, Longsuffering, among others.

Let's focus on the first three listed. His Holiness, Righteousness and Justice. It is agreed among theologians, based on ample Bible passages, that God's preeminent attribute is His Holiness. Consider the following verse from the Prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 57:15 KJV

"For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, ..."

Here, God reveals Himself as being totally OTHER, - being TRANSCENDENT - external to His creation. He is completely separate from everything He created. I Timothy reveals more about God. 1 Timothy 6:16 KJV "Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen."

Furthermore many passages tell us that God is Righteous. Psalm 145:17 KJV

"The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works."

Also, the Bible declares that God is JUST. Nehemiah 9:33 KJV

"Howbeit thou art just in all that is brought upon us; for thou hast done right, but we have done wickedly:"

In light of God's Holiness, Righteousness, and Justice we can understand why God hates sin. Sin is a transgression against the perfections of God's Holy character. God must judge sin. If he did not judge sin, He would be an unjust Judge. (God forbid). Therefore, the Bible states unambiguously:

Ezekiel 18:19-20 KJV - .
20 "The soul that sinneth, it shall die."

Psalms 7:11 KJV
"...God is angry with the wicked every day."

Habakkuk 1:13 KJV - "Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity:"

Sin, then, is a transgression of God's law, and/or iniquity, which is twisting God's laws and commands, or missing the mark of God's Holiness.

Now that we have established the Biblical baseline of the relationship between God and sin let's go back to the Garden of Eden.

When God formed man out of the dust of the ground He breathed into him the "Breath of Life" (Genesis 2:7). Thus, Adam became a "Spiritual Being" having the Spirit of God in him. Adam had a vital spiritual connection with His Creator, and was able to have a blessed fellowship with God in the Garden of Eden.

God delegated the dominion of the Garden to Adam, but He issued ONE RESTRICTION.
Genesis 2:17 KJV

"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

God issued this one command not to eat of this one tree, and God told Adam what the consequence would be if Adam disobeyed this command. God said "You will Die."

We know that Adam failed this test of obedience and thus committed cosmic treason against the Holy, Righteous and Just Creator of the Universe.

The moment Adam sinned he DIED SPIRITUALLY. His spiritual connection to God was separated. Adam hid from God. Adam (and Eve) were alienated from their Creator, and the fellowship was severed. (Adam lived for 930 years and then died physically).

This is known as THE FALL, which changed the course of mankind. God, then, cursed the ground and proclaimed judgment upon Satan, the woman and Adam. I will not discuss the details of these judgments in this article. The focus is on the FALL. The FALL affected Adam's faculties (and Eve's). The IMAGE OF GOD in Adam became marred. He did not lose the IMAGE OF GOD, but Adam's faculties of intellect, emotions and volition became corrupted. Adam now had a FALLEN NATURE, which produced an inclination in Adam to do things that are opposed to God. Instead of seeking God, Adam was inclined to HIDE from God. All this was the consequence of having DIED SPIRITUALLY, and having lost the spiritual connection to God.

In Genesis chapter 5 we read the genealogy of Adam and his descendents. It is noteworthy to mention what the Bible says in verse 3.

Genesis 5:3 KJV "And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:"

Remember, Adam after the FALL had a FALLEN, corrupted nature, and in this verse we read that Adam had a son, Seth, after Adam's image. The fallen nature of Adam has now been replicated in his son Seth. Subsequently, every person born after our first parents have inherited the same FALLEN NATURE. A nature that is alienated from God, void of any spiritual connection to God, who is SPIRIT. (John 4:24).

This fallen, sin nature has been passed on through all generations to every person who has ever been born of a woman. This verse in Romans clearly and succinctly traces the sin nature and its consequence, namely DEATH. Romans 5:12 KJV

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"

(The only exception was at the INCARNATION of the Son of God. The Holy Spirit of God caused a conception in Mary's womb, which was not caused by Mary's physical union with Joseph. Therefore, Jesus did not inherit the sin nature. Thus, He became the sinless Lamb of God, who shed His precious blood on Calvary's Cross and became our SIN BEARER. HALLELUJAH!

This point is brought into sharper focus in Ephesians Chapter 2 :1-3. This passage plus a few others will be the focus of the next article.

But, in summary of this segment:

The fact of the fallen nature in man, the absence of any spiritual connection to God, the alienation between God and man will result in eternal separation from God in HELL. Please do not trifle with this truth. It is non negotiable. Ten thousand good deeds, living a ethical and moral life will not correct that SIN NATURE.

The only thing that will overcome this fallen, sin nature is THE NEW BIRTH. The NEW BIRTH provides for that new spiritual connection (which was lost in the Garden of Eden) between a sinner and God. The New Birth guarantees the residence of the Holy Spirit of God indwelling in the believer, and infuses a new life IN CHRIST in a brand new SPIRITUAL UNION with the SAVIOR. The New Birth RECONCILES the sinner with His God and removes the previous alienation. The New Birth guarantees the ADOPTION into the Family of God.

As a result of the New Birth the believer is SEALED by the Holy Spirit of God as an earnest payment toward the full future inheritance of ETERNAL LIFE in Heaven. There are Bible passages supporting each of the above points, inspired by God the Holy Spirit as truth REVELATION from God to man.

Please remember, the New Birth is a work of the Holy Spirit of God when He sees genuine repentance and total trust and belief in Jesus Christ. That He is the God-Man who died to provide redemption for believing sinners.

I am sitting here in my chair at midnight writing this article, praying for all those people who are being led astray by FALSE TEACHERS of liberal theology. How empty their sermons. How VAIN their exhortations. How futile their attempts to encourage their congregations.

Yes, indeed. How true are Jesus's admonitions. Wide is the road that leadeth to destruction and many there be that travel this road. But narrow is the path that lead unto LIFE (ETERNAL LIFE)

Yet these false teachers mock at the truth. What audacity - to sit in judgement over the Bible to determine what Jesus said and what He did not say. What utter foolishness.

Oh, My Father! You know the burden of my heart. Please till the dry ground with your WORD, so that the seed will find fertile soil. I pray in Jesus Name!

With Warm Regards,

Horst Adler

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ." (Ro.1:16)