

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Understanding the New Birth

SERMON REFERENCE: John 3:1-7

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2259

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) To say that someone is a “born-again” Christian is redundant.
 - i) If you are born again, then you are a Christian.
 - ii) If you are not born again, then you are not a Christian, no matter what denomination you may be a member of.
- b) John 3:1-7
 - i) The word “Rabbi” means “teacher.”
 - ii) Jesus gave a divine imperative in this passage: “You must be born again.”
- c) Why must we be born again?
 - i) Because of undeniable sinfulness.
 - (1) Lest we think we’re not sinners, we need to remember to whom Jesus was talking in John 3.
 - (a) Jesus was speaking to Nicodemus.
 - (i) The very name “Nicodemus” means “superior.”
 - (b) Not only was Nicodemus a Jew (he was of the chosen race), but he was a ruler of the Jews as a member of the Sanhedrin.
 - (i) He was one of only seventy-one in all the nation of Israel.
 - (ii) He was among the most religious of the religious.
 - (iii) He was among the most moral of the moral.
 - (2) Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again.
 - (3) If any religious or moral person thinks that he or she can go to Heaven without being born again, then he is grossly ignorant of two things:
 - (a) He doesn’t know how sinful he is.
 - (b) He doesn’t know how holy God is.
 - ii) Because of unsatisfied longings.
 - (1) There is something in us that will never be satisfied until we are born again.
 - (2) Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, came to Jesus by night.
 - (a) There was a void and an emptiness in his heart, and he had to talk with Jesus.
 - (3) Theologians have long pondered why Nicodemus came to Jesus by night.
 - (a) Some say it was because Nicodemus was ashamed to come in the daytime.
 - (b) Others believe it was because he feared persecution.
 - (c) Perhaps, it was because he couldn’t sleep.
 - (i) As someone once said, perhaps instead of counting sheep, he just decided to talk to the Shepherd.
 - (4) No matter how much money you may have, how much pleasure you enjoy, or how much fame is spread abroad concerning you, there is a part of you that is missing and will never be satisfied apart from the new birth.
 - iii) Because of unending existence.

- (1) Our souls will be in existence somewhere even when the stars have grown cold.
- (2) We are going to live forever.
 - (a) There is another life after death, either in Heaven for those who have been born again or in Hell for those who have not been born again.
 - (i) Those who have not been born twice will die twice.
 - (ii) The second death is the Lake of Fire.
 - (3) We are closer to the time of death right now than we have ever been.
- d) The Lord Jesus, the Master Teacher, used the phrase “born again.”
 - i) A birth is something that we’ve all experienced.
 - ii) The spiritual birth parallels a physical birth in many ways.
- e) Today’s message will show us six ways that being born again spiritually is like being born physically.

2) IN A BIRTH, CONCEPTION TAKES PLACE

- a) When we were born physically, we had two parents.
- b) The two parents in the spiritual birth are the Word of God and the Spirit of God.
 - i) John 3:5
 - (1) In both the Old and New Testaments, water is an emblem or symbol for the Word of God.
 - (a) Ephesians 5:26
 - ii) 1 Peter 1:23
 - (1) In a sense, the Word of God is the father, and the mother is the Spirit of God.
 - iii) It takes both the Spirit of God and the Word of God for us to be born again.
- c) We supply the womb of faith.
 - i) We must believe in order to have everlasting life.
 - (1) John 3:16
- d) When the Word of God and the Spirit of God come together in the womb of faith, there is a conception and a new birth takes place.

3) IN A BIRTH, CONTINUITY IS INVOLVED

- a) Parents do not manufacture a baby; parents transmit life from themselves to the child.
 - i) We share the lives of our parents.
 - ii) Their lives continue in us.
- b) When we are born again, the life of God comes into us.
 - i) We are part of the life of God.
- c) Salvation is not simply getting man out of Earth and into Heaven; it is getting God out of Heaven and into man.

- d) By our first birth, we have existence; by our second birth, we have supernatural life.
 - e) In the Gospel of John, the word “life” is used 36 times.
 - i) John 10:10
 - f) When we are born again, we are partakers of God’s life.
 - i) We are partakers of the divine nature.
 - ii) The life of God is in us.
- 4) IN A BIRTH, CHARACTER IS PRODUCED
- a) John 3:6
 - b) When we were born of the flesh, we became flesh; and we have the nature of our first parents.
 - i) Our earthly parents, as good as they may be, were and are sinners.
 - (1) They received their nature from their parents.
 - (a) 1 Corinthians 15:22
 - (2) We are all sinners by nature.
 - (a) Ephesians 2:3
 - ii) We receive the character of our earthly parents by our earthly birth.
 - c) We receive the character of God by our new birth.
 - i) We become partakers of the divine nature.
 - ii) 1 Peter 1:3-4
 - iii) We have the nature of Almighty God in us by our second birth.
 - iv) The Lord Jesus said that we must be born again.
 - (1) John 3:7
 - v) Christians are not just nicer people; they are new creatures.
 - (1) As Christians, we are brand new.
 - (2) Christians are not like a tadpole that has finally developed into a frog (just a continuation of the same first birth).
 - (a) On the contrary, a Christian is more like a frog that has been transformed into a prince by the kiss of grace.
 - (i) It is a supernatural thing.
 - d) If your religion has not changed your life, then you better change your religion.
 - i) 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - ii) When we are born again, we are born from above.
 - (1) The phrase “born again” in the Greek literally means “born from above.”
 - e) We can look at our earthly parents and see their nature in us.
 - i) When we are born from above, God’s nature comes into us.
 - (1) We see in the Bible the character and nature of God.
 - (a) If we have truly been born again, we will see God’s nature in us.
 - f) What are the traits of the twice-born?
 - i) There will be a love for Jesus Christ.
 - (1) This is not a mere intellectual belief but a love for the Lord Jesus.

- (2) God the Father loves His Son.
 - (a) Matthew 3:17
 - (b) If God's nature is in us, then we will love His Son, also.
- (3) If we do not have a genuine love for Jesus Christ, then we need to ask ourselves whether or not we have the nature of God in us.
- ii) There will be a desire for holiness.
 - (1) 1 Peter 1:16
 - (a) 2 Corinthians 6:18
 - (i) As His children, we will be like our Father.
 - 1. This does not mean that we will never sin.
 - 2. We are not God.
 - 3. We still have that old nature that we got from our earthly parents.
 - (2) 1 John 3:9
 - (a) "His seed" in this passage refers to His nature that came into us through the Word of God.
 - (b) "Doth not commit sin" does not mean that we can never sin.
 - (i) The Greek word used here means that we cannot habitually practice sin.
 - (c) If sin is your lifestyle, if there's not been a change in your life, and if you've not learned to hate sin as well as love the Lord Jesus, then how can you say that you have the nature of God and have been born again?
 - (3) The nature of God is holiness; God is holy.
- iii) There will be the inner witness of the Spirit.
 - (1) 1 John 5:10
 - (2) Romans 8:16
 - (3) John 3:6
 - (4) When we are born again, the Holy Spirit of God comes into us.
 - (5) What is the witness of the Spirit?
 - (a) It is not an emotional feeling.
 - (i) Emotions are natural, not supernatural.
 - (ii) Emotions are the shallowest part of our nature.
 - 1. Salvation is the deepest work of God.
 - a. God does not do His deepest work in the shallowest part.
 - (b) It is that inner consciousness that you belong to Jesus.
 - (i) You know because you know that you know.
 - (ii) It is God saying to you that He lives in you.
 - 1. 1 John 4:13
- iv) There will be a desire to share the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (1) You will want people to know Jesus.
 - (2) Matthew 17:5
 - (a) God wants you to hear the Lord Jesus.
 - (b) God wants the world to know the Lord Jesus Christ.

- g) When we have been born again, a character is produced and that character is the divine nature.
 - i) If we do not have these characteristics, why do we say that the nature of God is in us?

5) IN A BIRTH, A COMPLETION TRANSPIRES

- a) A birth is a once-for-all experience.
 - i) In the natural realm, we are born one time.
 - ii) In the spiritual realm, we are born one time.
- b) No baby is ever be born twice physically.
 - i) John 3:4
- c) When we are born physically, we are born forever.
 - i) We will never cease to exist.
 - (1) Your spirit will be somewhere, either in Heaven or in Hell.
- d) The spiritual birth is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.
 - i) Luke 10:20
 - (1) In the Greek, this means that our names stand written in the book of life.
 - (2) This is why we believe in the eternal security of the believer.
 - ii) There is a difference between relationship and fellowship.
 - (1) Relationship is established by birth.
 - (2) Fellowship is maintained by life.
 - (a) There are times when fellowship between a child and his parents is broken.
 - (i) A father may have to chastise his child.
 - (ii) But there is no way that the father can take back the fact that he fathered that child.
 - iii) When we are born again, we become a partaker of the divine nature, and God will never forsake us.
 - (1) We will always be a child of God if we've been twice-born.
 - (a) Nowhere in the Bible can you find anyone who was saved twice.

6) IN A BIRTH, A COMMENCEMENT OCCURS

- a) Once there is a completion and the birth is finished, then the growth begins.
 - i) A birth is a starting place.
 - ii) No matter what our past has been by the old birth, we get a brand-new start if we have the new birth.
 - (1) A newborn child is no yesterdays; he is all tomorrows.
 - (2) When we come to Christ and are saved, all of our yesterdays are buried in the grave of God's forgetfulness.
 - (a) Psalm 103:12
 - (i) He does not say, "As far as the north is from the south."
 - 1. There is a North Pole and a South Pole, but there is no East Pole or West Pole.

- a. You start East or West and just keep going.
 - b) 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
 - i) The word “washed” means that the stain or blemish is gone.
 - ii) “Sanctified” means that we have been set aside, clean and holy for God.
 - iii) “Justified” means that it is as if we were never impure to begin with.
 - c) When we are born again, we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - i) Philippians 1:6
 - d) Some say that they will wait before giving their hearts to Jesus until they clean up their lives.
 - i) This is backward; this would be like trying to grow up and then get born.
 - ii) We must first give our hearts to Jesus.
 - (1) We will stumble and make mistakes.
 - (2) We will fall while trying to learn to walk, but we will be in the family.
- 7) IN A BIRTH, A CERTAINTY IS EXPECTED
- a) A birth is a certain event.
 - i) If someone were to ask us if we had ever been born, we would not say, “I hope so; I think so.”
 - ii) Similarly, if we are asked whether or not we are saved, we shouldn’t have to say, “I hope so; I think so.”
 - (1) This shows a faulty understanding of what the new birth is.
 - (2) The new birth is a certainty.
 - (a) Christians should be able to say, “I know that I’ve been born again.”
 - b) Some think that they have to remember the time and place when they were saved in order to know that they’re saved.
 - i) It is fine to remember the time and place, but that doesn’t make a person any more certain about their salvation.
 - c) The proof that someone is born again is not because of something that happened in the past, but that he now is trusting Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.
 - i) The Bible never puts the assurance of our salvation in the past.
 - ii) The Bible does not say, “He that believed has everlasting life;” it says, “He that believes.”
 - (1) If you are trusting Jesus now, then you had to trust Him sometime.
 - (2) Instead of looking back to some murky experience, ask yourself if you are trusting Jesus now.
- 8) CONCLUSION
- a) It is none other than Jesus who said that we must be born again.
 - i) John 3:7
 - b) If you’re only born once, then you’ll die twice.
 - i) The second death is the Lake of Fire.

- c) If you're born twice, then that which is born from above will go endless, timeless and measureless with the Lord.
- d) The two parents are the Word of God and the Spirit of God.
 - i) Will you supply the womb of faith?
- e) John 3:16
- f) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- g) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16