

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Water: Of All the Things to Stumble Over

Nicodemus wanted to know if “born anew” (John 3:3) had reference to a physical birth. Jesus said, No. It is certain that no one can be “born again” in the physical sense. Jesus explained that He had in mind a rebirth of “the spirit”, a “renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2). The Holy Spirit, causes our spirit to be “begotten again” through the “incorruptible seed, the word of God” (I Peter 1:23). God’s Word enters the ears, then the heart of man, and brings about faith, repentance and a desire to be right with God. This is being “born of the spirit.” But now, what about that water? There are some pretty exotic views about this little word.

When Jesus first said the thing about being born anew, Nicodemus was puzzled, so the Lord explained that being born anew means to be “born of water and the spirit.” There is nothing to indicate that Nicodemus did not understand what Jesus meant by the words water and spirit. It is granted that sometimes words are used figuratively; just as here where Jesus is using the normal word, born, to talk about something other than what that word usually means. But; (and this is a really important rule to follow when interpreting the means of words) Jesus made clear from the context that he was using the word born in a figurative sense; because, when Nicodemus asked him about a man entering his mother’s womb the second time, the Lord explained that he was not talking about being physically born, rather spiritually.

Yet, when Jesus said that the new birth was of water and the spirit, He left no indication whatsoever that the words water and spirit mean anything other than what they normally mean. Were it not for some people being so dead set against the idea of water baptism being connected to one’s being saved, it is doubtful that anyone would ever have read John 3:5, and come away understanding anything other than Jesus saying, in order for a person to enter the kingdom of God, he must undergo a change of spirit and he must be baptized in water.

Did you know that just twenty-two verses before Jesus talks of being born of water (John 3:5), he uses the exact same word? In John 2:7, it says that Jesus told some people to “fill the water pots with water.” And did you know that just 18 verses after John 3:5, it says (John 3:23) that John “was baptizing in Enon near to Salim, because there was much water there”? It is not reasonable to doubt that water in John 2:7 or John 3:23 means anything other than H₂O. Why would anyone imagine that it means something other than that in John 3:5?

Some say that water in John 3:5 really symbolizes the Holy Spirit, because they want to argue that Jesus is saying a person must be baptized in the Holy Spirit to enter the kingdom of God. If that were true, then you would have Jesus saying, a person must be born of the spirit and of the spirit to enter the kingdom of God; which, of course, would be absurd. Jesus uses two distinct words side-by-side: water and spirit. Neither symbolizes the other. There is no reason to imagine that they do. Some say that the water here symbolized the word; again, in the absence of compelling reason. Does Paul not speak of the church being cleansed “with the washing of water by the word” (Ephesians 5:26)? Both the word and water have their place. One does not symbolize the other. The most exotic explanation of the water in John 3:5 is that it refers the amniotic fluid in which a prenatal baby lives for nine months of its life. Now, did Jesus mean to say, “except a baby be born after his mamma’s water breaks, and they years later as a man he be born of the spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven”? Surely not. In fact, to answer Nicodemus’ query about being in his mother’s womb again, Jesus explained that he was talking about an entirely different birth, that of being born of water and the spirit. There is really no way around the fact that some way, somehow, pure, plain old water has some connection with one’s entering the kingdom of God. And if that water is not water baptism that is mentioned no less than seventy-five times in the New Testament, then it can have no meaning at all.

When the bible says, “except”, that pretty well settles it. Those and only those who are born of water and the spirit will enter into the kingdom of God; which is to say, only penitent baptized believers are in the kingdom of God.

—Alan Adams

Prayer Requests

Doug Guynn was taken to the ER on Thursday, February 11th. He had to undergo emergency surgery that night. Doug will be going to MD Anderson in Houston. We don't have an update on his surgery yet. Remember to keep Doug in your daily prayers at this time.

Bill Tate (husband of Linda Tate) underwent hip replacement surgery on Wednesday, February 10th at Medical Center. The surgery went well and he is home recuperating. Please keep Bill in your prayers that his recovery time will be short.

Concerns Update

Melissa Moore has had a return of the infection in her ankle. She went back to Lubbock last week to see her doctor. Continue to keep Melissa in your prayers that this infection in her foot will heal quickly.

Prayer List

Wayne Anderson; Betty Brooks; Bill & Mary Brown; Abessa Chavez; Jon Cooper; June Deavers; Doug Dowell; Kim Drake; Andrew Durfee; Jazmine Duron; Dana Erwin; Tim Garvin; Hattie Gilmore; Irma Gomez; Paul Gunn; Opal Hager; Phil Halbert; Liz Leach; Mildred Lee; Betty Leeth; Miguel Lozano; Vanessa Machuca; Ora McAfee; Glenna McCarty; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Rudy Ochoa; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Jackie Rex; Corina Rodriguez; David Ryan; Diane Salinas; Gary Schwulst; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Luke Wells; Janet Wesson; Carolyn Wilkerson; Charles Wood; John Wood.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question ... True or False

Job lived eighty years, which indicate that he came after life expectancy shortened to modern lengths.

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer ...

When Paul was bitten by a snake on the island of Malta, the natives at first thought he was receiving justice as a murderer, but when no harm came to him, they changed their minds, calling him a God. (Acts 28:3-6)

Events Watch “*In Search of the Lord's Way*” Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9.

Office News

The New Mexico Christian Children's Home will be here March 2nd. They are requesting **Chicken Bouillon Cubes**. They also accept monetary donations.

Our “**Spring Quarter Bible Classes**” will begin on Wednesday, March 3rd. Please check with one of the Coordinators if you would like to teach or become a helper in a classroom.

Food for thought...

There is no place to hide a sin without the conscience looking in.

How Quickly the Gate Opens

An old farmer from the country went to the big city hospital to visit a dear friend. He was told he would have to park in the parking lot. He was so surprised when he drove up to the entrance that the little gate lifted immediately. He drove right in and parked his car in the shade. He made his visit and got in his car and drove to exit, but it didn't open. It took money to get out. He mumbled to himself as he drove away, "Maybe they changed my oil and rotated my tires while I was there."

How true it is of sin. It is so easy to get in and so hard to get out. Habits are so easy to start and so difficult to break. Satan has always said you can get in now and pay me later. Not only does he get it back but with the highest interest.

It reminds me of how quickly the gate opened for David's sin with Bathsheba. He saw her beauty. He sent for her. She came. He lay with her. Then he sent her home thinking all was well. It would cost him dearly to get out of this parking place. She was with child from that little fun night. David had to commit more sin to cover his tracks. He had her husband, Uriah, killed. David and Bathsheba would lose the child of this conception, not to mention the shame and suffering that came from this sin.

Young people, how quickly the gate opens for the first cigarette or that chew of tobacco, that first beer, or that first act of sexual immorality, but it could cost an arm and leg or a heart and lungs. You could end up paying the maximum cost—your life and your soul.

Let us not be deceived to thinking because there is no price at the entrance; there will be no price at the exit. We need to pay attention to Paul's words to the Galatians in Galatians 6:7, *"Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap. For he that sows unto his own flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption. He that sows to the spirit of the spirit reap eternal life."*

—Bob Plunket
Everman church of Christ
Everman, TX

February 21, 2021	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Larry May	Larry May
Song Leader	Jaxon Straw	Oliver Hernandez
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Larry May	Larry May
Scripture	Cody Wesson	Gary Loving
Second Prayer	Jacob Carson	Scot Straw
Closing Prayer	Cody Wesson	Joshua Weakland
Lords Supper		Richard Siler
<u>Scripture Reading:</u>	Don Easlon	Communion (In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Larry May 638-3990 – *Deacon:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332 – *Pulpit:* John Wood 413-7444– *Table:* Richard Siler 556-2151– *Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990– *Recording Sermons:* Trinidad Wood 413-8508 – *Collections:* Trinidad Wood

Sunday AM

"Being Un-Christian-like"
(3 John 9-11)

Sunday PM

“Foundation of Faithfulness
(2 Thessalonians 2:13-17)

Our Records

Bible Class ~~~~~ (No Services 2/14/21)

Morning Worship ~~~~~

Evening Worship ~~~~~

Wednesday... 53

Contribution ~~~~~