

Today is December 22, 2024

“A New Birth Needed”

By Elder Curtis Pugh, 1944 - 2014

In order to be saved a person must be born again. Jesus said so in John 3:6-7. His words were: “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.” The reason each person needs a new birth is because each of us was born of fleshly parents and we are flesh. We lack spiritual life, having only received a natural or fleshly life from our parents. Paul wrote these words about himself and the members of the congregation in Ephesus: “Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved.”

The question is this: just how bad off are we because of our fleshly or natural birth? Being descended from Adam and all the generations of sinners between him and us, we are like our ancestors: sinners! Romans 3:10-11 sums up our natural born condition in these words: “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. In our natural born condition men do not seek after God. They may seek religion in order to feel good. They may seek to escape eternal punishment by doing religious things, but they do not seek God.

People think that there is something religious that they can do which will please God and motivate Him to save them. But that is impossible. The Bible says: “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God,” (Romans 8:7-8). Go ahead and pray the so-called sinner's prayer. God forward in a religious meeting. Make a public profession of your home-made faith in Christ. Get baptized. Try keeping the Old Testament Law of God. Do your best. “They that are in the flesh cannot please God.” Nothing that people in the flesh can do pleases God. Your efforts will not motivate Him to save you! You are lost!

It is obvious that the Lord Jesus was right. “Ye must be born again.” Sinners need to be born of the Holy Spirit. He must work first by making the dead spirit alive else the natural man remains forever dead spiritually. The Holy Spirit, being God, is sovereign. That means, He does as He pleases. Jesus likened the Spirit to the wind saying “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,” (John 3:8). Men do not control the wind. They can only observe it by its evidences. Neither can man control the Spirit. “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time,” (1 Peter 5:6).

**WELCOME TO THE
SOVEREIGN GRACE
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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Our Prayer List

“Pray without ceasing.”

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Sister Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son’s Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Danny Mollette, 12-year-old Lucas, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ricky Henderson and Family, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Jerry Hughes, Shirley King - Son David - and family, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Adrienne Lavina, Pastor Nathan Hille and Sister Cassie and his family, Baby Titus Massey, Shane and Brook Sims, Ricky Bennett, Nick, Madison, and Baby Emory Patty, and Russell York, Brother Medic, Sister Mhalyn Lavina and children, Brother Jerry Dodson, Brother Gary and Sister White, Brother David and Sister Jevonna O’Neal, Sister Rebecca Sidders, Mark and Kathy Johnson.

Pray For Our Church Supported Mission Works

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Act 1:8

Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan in Thailand, and Elder Raul and the Printing work Romania

“Pastor’s thought for the week.”

“Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;”¹ Peter 5:2

Buy the Truth, and sell it not!

“Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.” Proverbs 23:23

What does God mean by “buy the Truth,” He means to own it, no matter the cost. As children of God, we are to be like our Father, and that means to search for and believe His Truth. He also means to possess it, make His truth your life, never sell it for the world because the world and all that is in it is only temporary. Matt. 16:26 “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” The Truth of God’s word is not popular, it will cost you much to believe it, it could cost you friendships, relationships, and even family, to believe it and it could also cost you to testify of it because of the hate of it. The world by nature hates God’s Truth and a lot of Christians either refuse to believe the Truth or hide from it. Many of Christians lose it for just the reason I have already spoke of. People by nature care about the cost of the Truth, they care about what their family, co-workers, or friends think about them believing the Truth of God’s word. However, remember this, you cannot serve God and the world, one will cause you to hate or despise of the other. The Lord not only told us to buy it, but He also told us not to sell it out. Your family, friends, and coworkers are not worth selling out God’s word of Truth. Do not allow Satan, this evil world and their demonization of the Truth cause you to lose what God has graciously given. Believing Truth is a gift, like salvation is a gift from God. While you cannot lose your salvation, you can lose or sell out the Truth of God’s word. Carefully walk my friends, what we do in this life will affect our reward status in heaven. The believer’s judgment will be before Jesus Christ and **our judgment will be harsh**. Our judgment will not be for our sins because Jesus Christ has already paid dearly for them at Calvary. The Christians judgment will be our believing and obeying of the word of God. Our judgment will be harsh, it will hurt to stand before our glorious Saviour and realize that we failed our Lord. The realization that we failed to “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Tim. 2:15 Or that we failed to obey the word of God, sometimes even acting as though we did not hear it, see it, or simply chose to ignore it, or making excuses for it. We will stand before Jesus WITHOUT EXCUSS and very pitiful because He is the very one who wrote the bible and commanded us.

Pastor’s Thought Continued

We will be ashamed of our action on this earth of not being a good Christian, or a good soldier for the Lord. We will no longer be able to lie to ourselves and believe even though we told ourselves we were good soldiers we lied to ourselves and convinced ourselves that we were. Beloved, what we personally believe, and think is irrelevant because the word of God overrides what we think or believe. God warned and even commanded that we study His word of Truth, but He also commanded that we believe it and use it to “rightly dividing the word of truth.” The writer of the Proverbs wrote these words of wisdom, “My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; **Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.**” Proverbs 2:1 -5 The greatest blessing for a believer is not within this world, it is within the pages of God’s word of Truth. As the recipients of God’s grace and love, not only in salvation but also in being taught by the Holy Spirit of Truth, it is ours to study, learn, believe, and to walk within. However, if we fail, if we sell the Truth, then it is our fault and in judgment we will suffer much greater loss. I know some things are hard in life, however, there are no excuses for failure. We are not alone, seek and you shall find, as and it shall be given to you, but you must want the truth to find it. “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” Matthew 7:7 - 8

Church information and Happenings

- Please be in much prayer for our dear brother in Christ Jerry Dodson as his time is limited.
- Please remember to be in much prayer for Brother Ronnie Henderson and Sister Sarah.
- Please remember to always pray for our church and prayer list.
- Always be looking for the return of our Lord, it could be any time.