

Thus Saith God's Word

by Rev. Ted Brooks

He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself. He that believeth not God hath made him a liar, because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. (1 John 5:12, and Verse 10)

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. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, how can these things be? (St. John 3:3, Verse 9)

Earlier Jesus had been told by the Jews about a temple which had taken forty-six years to complete and it was this temple which had demanded so much of the people that it was written, "the zeal of thine house had eaten me up." The people turned to Jesus and said what sign shewest thou unto us? Jesus answered and said not them, destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up, and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said, many believed in his name when they saw the miracles which he did. (John 2:17-23)

It was there that Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, who came to Jesus by night and said, "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." (John 3:1-2)

Oh my friend, Nicodemus even called him Master, recognized Christ as a teacher of God and testified to the miracles of Christ. Jesus turned to Nicodemus and said, "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

My friend, Nicodemus saw Christ, even witnessed to the miracles of God working through Jesus Christ, yet Jesus said not him, "Except." In other words, Nicodemus, you must look beyond what you have seen. You must exclude, leave out, unless you do this you cannot see the kingdom of God. Again Nicodemus said, "How can a man be born again when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

Notice again in verse 5, Jesus used the word "except." The word means to leave out. Leaving out, unless, if not Jesus was telling Nicodemus, it is not enough to see that God is with me. It is not enough to witness my miracles, not enough to see the works of Christ. "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. 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." (John 3:1-7)

Nicodemus believed what he saw, the rest believed the scripture. (2:22) Nicodemus needed the spiritual birth, knowing that he that hath the son hath life and he that hath not the son hath not life.

Nicodemus needed a regeneration. He was a member of the Sanhedrin, a very rich man, a Jewish Rabbi, yet his heart was filled with the Laws of Moses and not of the epistle of Christ. Nicodemus was a man of the letter and not of the spirit, the letter killeth, the spirit giveth life.

Nicodemus has a mind that was blinded, the veil had not been taken away. (II Corinthians 3:6-verse 14)

Nicodemus's education and influential background could not rule out the need of reformation, a new heart.

Paul in the letter to the Hebrews spoke of the first covenant that had ordinances of divine service and a worldly sanctuary. He spoke of tabernacle, candlesticks, the table and shewbread which was the first veil and he spoke of a second veil called the Holiest of all, a place where the golden censer, the ark of the covenant overlaid with gold, the golden pot of manna, Aaron's rod that budded, the tables of the covenant, it was there. The mercy seat was there. Things we cannot now speak particularly these things were ordained, the priest went always into the first tabernacle accomplishing the services of God, but the second went the high priest once every year, not without blood which he offered for himself and for the error of the people.

My friend, Nicodemus knew this, he knew that the priest went into the second veil, but the way into the holiness of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing, they stood only in meats and drinks and divers washing and carnal ordinances imposed on them until the time of reformation. (Hebrews 9:1-10)

So Jesus said, "Destroy this temple in three days I will raise it up again." (John 2:19) Jesus was saying destroy this temple that I will become a greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands. I will become a temple, not of the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood. "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood, and with the shedding of blood is no remission of sins." Jesus Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. (Hebrews 9:22-28)

This building of Christ's was to be taken down only to be raised up to appease God, man's propitiation, who satisfied God of his holy and righteous character. It was through his provision that he dealt with sin, that he can show mercy to the believing sinner in the removal of his guilt and the remission of his sins. "Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people." (Hebrews 2:17)

So you see, my friend, through the work of Christ, God's own own, he alone delivered us from, justly deserved wrath, and we came upon grace. It was never said God needed reconciling to God. God has and will always be the same. He that believeth on the Son hath the witness in himself, he that believeth not God hath made him a liar, because he believeth not the record that God gave of his son. (1 John 5:12)

My friend, we have arrived in an era which there are those who will not tell you that they are born again. In Wednesday's Robesonian, November 14, 2001, the headlines read "Baptists Choose a President Jerry Pereira who was raised a Catholic, who became a Baptist after studying the ministry of the Rev. Billy Graham. Makes me wonder if he believes as Rev. Graham who said he believes man can be saved apart from the name of Christ. I wonder if the Rev. Pereira believes as Rev. Graham who said "I think everybody that loves Christ or know Christ, whether they're conscious of it or not, they are a member of the Body of Christ." Rev. Graham went on to say that God's purpose for this age is to call out a people for his name and that what God is doing today said Graham, whether they come from the Muslim world, or the Buddhist world, or the Christian world or non believing world, they are members of the body of Christ because the are being called by God. They may not even know the name of Jesus but they know in their hearts that they need something that they don't have and they turn to the only light that they have, and I think they are saved and they are going to be with us in heaven." (WWW.CET.COM/VOICE/DISCERN/Graham.htm)

My friend, Jesus said to Nicodemus, you must be born again. Who will you believe, God's word or man's word?

My folks, for years now conference equips churches for leaders to change. Now folks no longer speak of being born again. It's who you know and not what you know.

Nicodemus ye must be born again. Nicodemus could have claimed that no one knew the ordinances of divine service as he did, yet Nicodemus did not know Christ as his personal savior. He knew Christ was from God, but he did not know Christ as the Savior.

The Old Testament declares that the life of the flesh is in the blood. He that hath the Son hath life. He that hath not the son hath not life. My friend, it is the blood that maketh atonement by reason of the life.

Man had forfeited his life on account of sin and God provided and God has provided the one and only way whereby eternal life can be attained, namely the laying down of his own son's life. His blood meant that something is dying, or dead because of a loss of blood. When blood is shed, life is giving up and death takes place. When you come to deal with sinners, whether they be Muslim, Buddhist, Catholic, Mormon, Jehovah's Witnesses, Baptist, Methodist, Pentecostal, without the shed blood of Jesus no man is saved apart from the knowledge of Christ. Nicodemus was well acquainted with God and his miracles and could recognize a man sent from God, but Nicodemus was not born again.

My friend, the Blood means covering of sin. Blotted out. (1 John 2:2) "And he is the propitiation for our sins and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the world. Not that we loved God, but he loved us and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:10) It was Christ himself, his death, his blood, his mercy showed to sinners who believe on Christ. Christ alone provided his own blood not for ours only but the whole world might be saved. It was his Redemption who bought us out of sin. We were slaves to sin. Miracles could not save me. I had heard of his man. I was going down for the last time. I was in the jaws of death, but now safe am I. Christ lifted me up. He sent from above. He took me. He drew me out of many waters. (Psalm 18:16) yea said Job, his soul draweth near unto the grave, and his life to the destroyer. If there be a messenger with him, an interpreter one among a thousand and the lily of the valley. (Song of Solomon 2:1 and Job 33:22-23)

Ye must be born again, my friend. You can't please this world. We have no agreement. We are told to be ye not unequally yoked with unbelievers for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness and what communion hath light with darkness, wherefore come ye out from among them. (II Corinthians 6:11-17)

Thank God for a salvation of deliverance. Thank God for preservation, material and temporal, deliverance from danger, also eternal deliverance, given to all who will confess their sins to Christ and who are sanctified to a course of life we enter by faith in Christ.

Let me close. I could write on.

Remember, ye must be born again, whoever you are!

Every 20 Seconds... Osteoporosis Causes a Fracture



HIP - Half of those who fracture never walk independently again.

SPINE - Causes posture change, height loss, and often chronic pain.

WRIST - Interrupts activities of daily living and causes pain.



Fighting Osteoporosis & Promoting Bone Health
www.nof.org or 1-800-223-9994



The first great modern English dictionary, Samuel Johnson's A Dictionary of the English Language, in 1775, contained only about 50,000 terms. Noah Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language in 1828 included about 75,000. Today's average college dictionary has over 150,000 entries.

Thomas Jefferson introduced many of America's favorite foods when he returned from trips to Europe. He was one of the first Americans to eat tomatoes, serve macaroni or ice cream, plant rice, and serve French fries with steak, etc.

Search for Truth

by Elder Joseph Bullard

You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. 2 Cor. 9:11.

Paul was commending the church at Corinth for their generous gifts in behalf of the suffering church in Jerusalem. He pointed out that their gifts not only would help the saints but would result in that much more thanksgiving and praise ascending to God.

Let me share with you the following newspaper clipping: "Arthur A. Everts, of Dallas, Texas, at a recent Christian Endeavor convention as reported in the El Paso Times, stated: 'The man who does not give his title to God, ... and I mean actual money, is a God robber. Such a man cannot hope to be successful and prosperous. This is the reason why forty out of every hundred Americans at sixty-five are either wholly or partially dependent.'"

"Then he referred to the Mormons by stating, 'They are titers, and less than nine out of every hundred are broke at sixty-five.' In speaking of the Seventh-day Adventists he continued by saying, 'The total for the Seventh-day Adventists is less than six out of every hundred. They add something to the tithe. Out of 352 Seventh-day Adventists in business, only eight went broke in seven years, and not one of those eight was paying his tithe.'"

What was it David said? "I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging bread" (Ps. 37:25). Of course, that is not the prime reason for returning to the Lord our tithes or of adding our freewill offerings, but it is comforting to know that the Lord takes care of His own. As we are generous with Him, He is more than generous with us.

A small girl had been given ten dimes as a reward for some small task she had done in the home. She had been taught to tithe, so the first dime she set aside for the Lord. Then she gave a dime each to her father and mother, and distributed the remainder among her brothers and sisters. She had only one dime left—and designated that as offering. Her mother reasoned with her that she had already given one dime to Jesus, which was right, and now she could keep this one for herself. The child replied, "The first one belonged to Jesus. The last one I gave Him as a gift."

Business Services Directory

Call 521-2826 to place your business card here

Native American Sprinklers

Installing Lawn Sprinklers at Reasonable Rates

Call (910) 521-4611 or (910) 827-0327

The Medicine Shoppe

David Hester, R.Ph.
102 N. Patterson St.
Maxton, NC 28364
On the corner of Patterson and Martin Luther King
(910) 844-3100

The Pharmacy That's All About Your Health™

4811 Fayetteville Rd. (910) 739-3323
Lumberton, NC 28358

OPTOMETRIC EYE CARE CENTER.

John I. Adams, O.D.
Katherine S. Harris, O.D.
Charles L. Clark, O.D.
Carolyn Marks, Licensed Optician
Family Practice and Contact Lenses

Parkton Family Medical Center

Herman Chavis, M.D. William Sanderson, M.D.
Kenneth E. Locklear, M.D. Arnold Kinley, P.A.

15 West 3rd Street
Parkton, North Carolina 28371
Telephone 858-3913
OFFICE HOURS:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. * Thursday 8 am - 1 pm

DEXTER'S REF, HEATING AND COOLING

Sales and Service for your heating and cooling needs

249 Lonnie Farm Road (910) 521-9986 or
Pembroke, NC 28372 (910) 521-9060
Cell - (910) 618-6453

Repo Depo, LLC

Affordable Housing Specialist
Land/Home Packages Available

Craig McMillian
Rennett, NC
(910) 843-5221
Cell: (910) 734-4492
Craig4hire@msn.com

Savings and Service Worth the Trip!

BLEECKER

OLDS / BUICK / GMC
Hwy. 211 East • Red Springs

Lumberton: 738-3800 - Red Springs: 843-2141
Raeford: 875-3536 - Fayetteville: 483-5000
Toll Free: 1-800-634-3495
"15 Miles To Savings"

Work: 738-5530 Home: 739-1314

Greg Bell

Attorney at Law

431 N. Elm Street
Lumberton, NC 28358
(Located directly across from the Courthouse)

Dunlop Oxendine's Tire Center, Inc. Dunlop

Jeff & Lois Oxendine

MOTOR CYCLE INSPECTION
NC INSPECTION
OIL CHANGE
ALIGNMENTS
BRAKE SERVICE

Work: 521-3346 P.O. Box 3240 Home: 522-0220
Pembroke, NC 28372

FIRST AMERICAN PUBLICATIONS

The Carolina Indian Voice Newspaper

Connee Brayboy

P.O. Box 1075
Pembroke, NC 28372
(919) 521-2826 Office (919) 521-4611 Home

Robeson Family Practice Associates

Herman Chavis, M.D. Kenneth Locklear, M.D.
Myra D. Hall, M.D. Rajesh Sakala, M.D.
Barbara Graham, PAC

1002-C East 4th Avenue, Red Springs, NC 28377
Telephone 843-331
OFFICE HOURS: Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Pembroke Family Practice Center

Martina Dockery-Belfield, MD
Ellen McLaurin, FNP
Denis Ricard, PA-C

410-D South Jones Street., Pembroke
Providing Medical Care for Your Entire Family

910-521-4462