John Lesson 8

Robert Harkrider · John 3:1–15

INTRODUCTION

- How is it that man is born again? And how can we tell whether or not we have been born again?
- Except a man be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
- He didn't say he may not, he probably won't, but very positively he said he cannot see the kingdom of God.

1 Water Must Refer to Water Baptism

Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3–4

- Water must of necessity refer to water baptism.
- Water baptism was commissioned by Christ.
- The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us.
- It's not the power in the water itself, but rather the power is in the blood of Christ for remission of sins.

2 Born of the Spirit Through the Word

John 16:13; 1 Peter 1:22–23; James 1:18

- It is through the Holy Spirit that we learn what to do to be saved.
- We are born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.
- How does the word of God cause us to be born again? There's only one way. That is as we obey it.
- It's not water only that'll save you. It's not baptism only that'll save you. There must be obedience to the gospel of Christ.

3 How Can You Tell If a Man's Born Again?

1 Corinthians 14:22; John 3:6–8; Ephesians 4:24–32

- There isn't a single place where the Bible talks about tongue speaking as a sign of a new birth.
- You may not be able to see that new birth take place any more than you can see the wind.
- How you can tell whether or not a person is born again is by the changes that take place in his life.
- We put off the old man, and we put on the new man in Christ Jesus.

4 Earthly Things and Heavenly Things

John 3:9–13

- If I have told you earthly things and ye believe not, how shall ye believe if I tell you of heavenly things?
- He has assurance that what he is saying is truth, for he has been with the Father. He came down from heaven.

5 As Moses Lifted Up the Serpent

John 3:14–15; Numbers 21:6–9

- As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up. That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
- When he spoke about being lifted up, he was speaking about his crucifixion.
- It was God's way of redeeming man.
- There had to be obedient faith for anyone to have been healed.

6 By Grace Through Obedient Faith

Acts 2:23; Ephesians 2:8–10; James 2:14–26

- God planned the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Man never devised it.
- We are saved by grace, and it is not by works that is meritorious works. But it's not by grace only either.
- Just as the Jew had to come and look upon the serpent that was lifted up on the pole, so it is that you and I must come and obey what God says in order to be saved.
- By works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Then won't you repent of your sins? That is, turn from an ungodly life. Confess your faith by your own mouth that he is the Christ and be willing to be immersed, baptized into Christ.**

MY NOTES