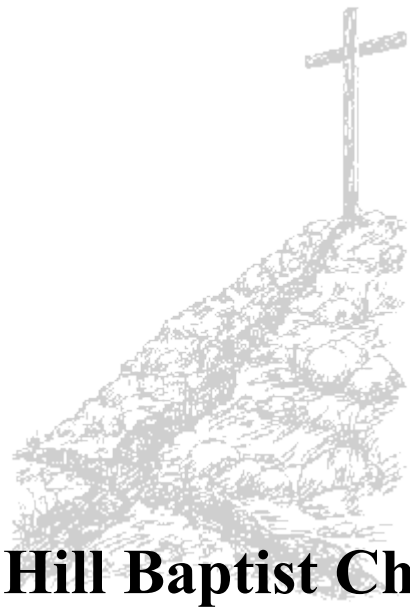


You Must Be Born Again

John 2:23-3:5



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FOCAL Read Responsively John 2:23-25 (KJV)

"Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. {24} **But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, {25} And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.**"

John 3:1-5 (KJV) "There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: {2} The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, 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. {3} **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. {4}** Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? {5} **Jesus answered, 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."**

Opening Prayer: Precious Father, there are days when we come to You and, as we bow before You, all we can see is sin and limitation. It is on days like these, days when our feelings cry out and, like Judas Iscariot, partner with the Tempter in condemning us, that we most cherish Your Precious Promises. We remember the day when You visited us. Like Zacharias we stood in your Temple without a voice. Sin had robbed us of any hope, any excuse, any reason, any usefulness. Then You came, dear Jesus, and our voice was loosed. We were able to praise You¹ for Your tender mercy, Blessed Dayspring from on high. We came to You in the night of our lives and You gave us the

Light of Life. You guide our feet into the way of peace, a Way purchased by Your Blood on that Terrible Tree we call Calvary. We praise You and only You, dear Creator, for making us alive through the death of Your Son Jesus. We are Your children, heirs by faith in Christ Jesus. Thank You for being our Father.

Lord, we come now to worship You. We know You have said² that "man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart". Help us to realize at this moment that You read us like books - nothing is hidden from Your gaze. We dare not lie to You for, as You did with Ananias and Sapphira, You will judge our lies to You most harshly.³ We know You have illustrated that the "wages of sin are death"⁴. We therefore confess our sins before You, repenting of them, and asking that they be placed under the Blood of Christ. We ask that You forgive our apathy, our slumbering hearts, our sins of omission, our unwillingness to serve You as we should serve the Lord. "Lord, slay sloth within us, and never let us find a pillow in the doctrines of grace for ease while yet a single sin remains. Besides, great God, the raging lusts of the flesh will sometimes pounce upon us like wild beasts. Help us to be very watchful lest by any means we be torn and rent by them. O keep us, we beseech Thee, Lord, for without Thy keeping we cannot keep ourselves."⁵ Guide the preacher today - he confesses that he is but a poor tool unless You fill him with Thy Spirit. We ask that You open the eyes of all here to Your presence, in Jesus' name we ask this - Amen!

1. The New Birth Is Necessary - Just Look At Man

The New Birth is absolutely necessary. You would think that, on seeing and walking and talking with Jesus Christ that people would *flock* to Him for salvation. Just to be

2 1 Samuel 16:7

3 Acts 5

4 Romans 6:23

5 C.H. Spurgeon, *To Be Like Christ*

near Him, to love Him - wouldn't this be magnificent? But look at what our text says:

FOCAL John 2:23-25 (KJV) "Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, **many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles** which he did. {24} But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, {25} And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man."

Jesus did not do just *one miracle* while He was in Jerusalem for the Passover - He did **miracles**. Look in verse 23 and read, "**they saw the miracles** [plural, not singular] **which he did**". Though John only records the miracle of turning water into wine, our Lord did *many miracles* during this eight day feast the Jews called Passover. We are further told:

FOCAL John 2:23 (KJV) "... **many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.**"

You might be thinking, "What a great thing! These people saw Jesus' miracles and believed on Him. Here are some early converts to the faith." But rather than this be a *cause* of rejoicing, this highlighted the *curse of humanity*. We are told in verses 24-25:

FOCAL John 2:24-25 (KJV) "... **Jesus did not commit himself unto them**, because he knew all men, {25} And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man."

another translation⁶ makes it a little clearer:

"Jesus, however, would not entrust Himself to them, since He knew them all and because He did not need anyone to testify about man; for He Himself knew what was in man."

Jesus knows what is in the heart of unsaved man. Those who saw Him perform miracles believed on Him *for the miracle's sake*. They didn't believe in Jesus - they believed in the miracles! You see this same crowd on the so called *Christian television stations* even today. The preacher says "trust in Jesus, and attain prosperity. Name it and claim it! Believe Him, and life will just be one financial blessing after another. Jesus owns a thousand cattle on a thousand hills, and He wants to give them all to you!"

These people do not want Jesus, nor do they want to serve the living God through Him. They want *more* of the goods of this world. They want miracles, they want their physical needs satisfied. They want more of the *free wine* that was made at Cana. They want good health, their bodies healed, their children restored.

Listen Beloved - they wanted the **manna from Heaven, but they wanted no relationship with Jesus**. It was fine for Jesus to proclaim Himself Savior, and they would go along with what He said - as long as He didn't try to be

Lord as well! The Bible says:

Jeremiah 17:9 (KJV) "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

or as Holman puts it:

"The heart is more deceitful than anything else and desperately sick—who can understand it?"

There are many people who chase after God for the things that He can give them. Give us a miracle, give us food, give us the satisfaction of our selfish desires, and many follow after Christ. But Christ cannot form an alliance with such a party! Those who chase after Him for what they can get - the healings, the feedings, the alleviation of suffering, the gaining of riches - often follow Him as long as they are being *paid off*. But let the miracle cease, and these fair weather believers wander away.

Jesus Christ will not commit Himself to those who are not *born again*. He Himself **knows what is in man**. He knows our depravity, and knows that apart from the New Birth sin holds us in slavery. *Talents* are given only to servants of the Master, never to strangers of the Kingdom.

In His earthly ministry people were often blessed by Jesus. As John the Baptist awaited death in prison he began to *question himself*, to wonder if he had done all he needed to do to promote Jesus. John sent his disciples

6 Holman Christian Standard Bible

to Jesus with the following question ...

"Are you the One Who was coming, or should we have been promoting Another Messiah?"

Jesus answered John

(Luke 7:22 KJV) "... John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached."

The Messiah had come, and the *miracles* had proved Him to be the Messiah. People were blessed when God moved through their midst. Yet, even being blessed, they looked to Jesus for a variety of things. They expected Jesus to heal them. They wanted Him to restore Israel to her lost glory, and to overthrow Rome. They wanted Jesus to feed them by multiplying bread and fish, to save them from the wind and the waves, to take care of their *temporal earthly needs*. You see, as our text says

FOCAL John 2:24 (KJV) **".. many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. "**

but they did not believe on Him for salvation. They did not see Him as the **Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world**.

Now, you may be asking of yourself, "What is Sin?" The Bible tells us that sin is *falling short of the glory of God*⁷.

⁷ Romans 3:23 (KJV) **"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory**

Let's make that a little more personal by looking at God's Law - the familiar *Ten Commandments*. There has been a great outcry among organized religion about the removal of the Ten Commandments from public places. Though I believe the Ten Commandments *should* be posted in every school, every courtroom, every shopping mall, every place where people go, I do not believe that *posting* the Commandments without *applying* the Commandments will make much difference in society. Writer **Cal Thomas** recently stated:

"Religious activists fool themselves if they believe public displays of the Ten Commandments reflect a more moral and less corrupt nation. One needs only to watch television to discern the level of our depravity.

God dismissed the visible sacrifices of the ancient Israelites when those sacrifices became rituals. In their hearts and behavior, they worshiped false gods. Their actions did not match their doctrines. Do those advocating for more public displays of religion privately practice what they publicly preach? If they did, the influence of their proclaimed righteousness might reach all the way to the Supreme Court. Whether it did, or not, it would reach all the way to their God."⁸

You may think those to be harsh words, but they are *very true*. You see, the Ten Commandments were given by God to be a Schoolmaster who would lead us to Christ. We see this taught in:

⁸ of God;"

⁸ Cal Thomas, *The Constitution and The Commandments*, June 28 2005

Galatians 3:24-25 (KJV) "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. {25} But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster."

The Commandments are there to open our eyes to how *much* we need Jesus! So let's go back to school for just a moment. The **Sixth Commandment**⁹ says that **you shall not kill**, or more appropriately **you shall not murder**. Now when I say these words everyone here begins to think, "I've never murdered anyone. Why, I've never even killed anyone in combat!". That may be true, but I want you to hear *how Jesus Christ explained the Sixth Commandment*. He said:

Matthew 5:21-23 (HCSB) "You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, Do not murder, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment. But I tell you, everyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Fool!' will be subject to the Sanhedrin. But whoever says, 'You moron!' will be subject to hellfire."

I wish I could tell you the number of times I have heard otherwise good, seemingly Godly, Christ professing people *cut down* or *malign* other people. I myself have been guilty of this same thing, so I certainly do not stand here as one who is self righteous. We have all done this.

9 Exodus 20:13

And it doesn't matter if we *suffix* our statement with "*but I do love them*". When you malign and participate in hatred, you have - in God's eyes - committed an act as vicious as any murder committed. Or how about the **Seventh Commandment**, "**you shall not commit adultery**"¹⁰? Again, many in this audience would immediately reply, "I've never done such a thing! I have been faithful to my God and my spouse!". Yet again, Jesus takes us to school:

Matthew 5:28 (NIV) "But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

The very *act* of looking at a woman - or a man, dear ladies - with lust in your heart *convicts you of adultery* in God's eyes! I remember a dear lady who used to love to watch the show *Magnum PI* because she loved watching Tom Sellick. In her words, "He's a fine looking man". In our minds such a thing is innocent, but in the mind of our Holy God such behavior is an *abominable sin*. The Law looks at us, at our lives, and *convicts us as sinners*. If you want to *clean up your act* and get better apart from Christ, apart from faith in Him, then here's what you need to do. Jesus said:

Matthew 5:29-30 (KJV) "And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. {30} And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee

10 Exodus 20:14

that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell."

If the Law convicts you and you do not want to come to Christ for salvation, if you do not want the solution of Calvary's Tree, then *purge yourself* of your offending members. If your eyes wander in lust - committing adultery in God's sight - pluck your eyes out. If your tongue continues to murder others, to backbite, to cause an offense against God Who *alone is worthy to be Judge*, then cut off your tongue. Take away every offending member of your body and, like Dagon next to God's Ark, you will find yourself left a stump with no hands and no feet. But even then the Law will rear it's head and tell you. **Charles Spurgeon** prayed:

"Our Father, we are very weak. Worst of all we are very wicked if left to ourselves, and we soon fall a prey to the enemy. Therefore help us. We confess that sometimes in prayer when we are nearest to You at that very time some evil thought comes in, some wicked desire. Oh! what poor simpletons we are. Lord help us. We feel as if we would now come closer to You still and hide under the shadow of Your wings. We wish to be lost in God. We pray that You may live in us, and not we live, but Christ live in us and show Himself in us and through us."

The solution can only be Christ. Just as He told Nicodemus,

2. You Must Be Born Again

FOCAL John 3:1 (KJV) "There was **a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus**, a ruler of the

Jews"

Look at the first few words of John 3, "**There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus**". This in itself tells you a great deal about what is going to occur in this chapter. Nicodemus was described as **of the Pharisees**. **Harper's Bible Dictionary** describes the Pharisees as:

"... a Jewish sect from the second century B.C. to the first century A.D. They considered the entire old Testament to be authoritative, unlike the Sadducees who only accepted the first five books. The Pharisees believed in life after death, the resurrection, the existence of angels and demons, and that the way to God was through keeping the law. **"According to Josephus, the Pharisees were the group most influential with the people, were noted for their accurate and therefore authoritative interpretations of Jewish law, and had their own traditions and way of life to which they were faithful. They had a simple standard of living and cultivated harmonious relations with others."**¹¹

It was not a *bad thing* to be a Pharisee. In fact, these were *good people* as the world views good people. Nicodemus was not just a *good person*, but he was also described as

FOCAL John 3:1 (KJV) "There was a man of the

¹¹ "Achte-meier, Paul J., Th.D., *Harper's Bible Dictionary*, (San Francisco: Harper and Row, Publishers, Inc.) 1985 and *Christian Apologetics Research Ministry*, at http://www.carm.net/dictionary/dic_p-r.htm

Pharisees, **named Nicodemus, a ruler¹² of the Jews**"

This man was a **ruler** among the Pharisees, a *master* of the system of religion that was so predominant in Israel. In fact, Jesus referred to Nicodemus as a **didaskalos**, a **Master Teacher**¹³ in verse 10 of our text. This man was trained by the best, a member of the Highest Council in Israel. You would think that he, of all people, was *ready* to go be with God in Heaven. Yet look at our text:

FOCAL John 3:2 (KJV) "[Nicodemus] came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, 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."

I don't know why Nicodemus came to see Jesus **at night**. I know this is *significant* because - from that point on - Nicodemus is referred to as **the one who came to Jesus by night**.¹⁴ It's almost as if John gave the poor man a nickname! I don't know why he came by night. The Bible commentators are split on whether he merely came at night because that was the only time he could see Jesus alone - or else he came by night because he didn't want anyone else to see him in Jesus' presence.¹⁵ We do not

12 archon {pronounced ar'-khone}, present participle, *preeminent, arch, chief, head of the class, by extension of Rabbinical quality*

13 John 3:10 (KJV) "Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a **master [didaskalos]** of Israel, and knowest not these things?"

14 John 7:50 (KJV) "Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that **came to Jesus by night**, being one of them,)"

John 19:39 (KJV) "...there came also Nicodemus, which at the first **came to Jesus by night**..."

15 Jamieson-Fausset-Brown states "One of those superficial "believers"

know what was his motive, though he remained *branded* in John's Gospel by his action. We do know this, though. Though Nicodemus was a *good man* as society defines *good*, Jesus told him - just as He tells you -

FOCAL John 3:3 (KJV) "... Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**"

If you ever expect to see the Kingdom of God, then you *must* be born again. What is this *New Birth*? Let's see if we can describe it using Christ's text.

a. It is a NECESSARY personal experience. Jesus used the words **verily, verily** several times in talking to Nicodemus. This combination of words, **verily, verily** or in the Greek **amen amen** is *very interesting*. You will only find these words repeated this way in the Gospel of John, and you will find this *double amen* of Jesus given *twenty five times* in this precious Book. Jesus said **amen**

mentioned in [Joh 2:23](#), [Joh 2:24](#), yet inwardly craving further satisfaction, Nicodemus comes to Jesus in quest of it, but comes "by night". **John Gill** states "Through fear of the Jews, of being reproached or turned out of his place by them; or through shame, that such a doctor as he was, should be known to go to Jesus of Nazareth, to be instructed by him; or lest he should offend any of his brethren of the sanhedrim..." **Adam Clarke** said "He had matters of the utmost importance, on which he wished to consult Christ; and he chose the night season, perhaps less through the fear of man than through a desire to have Jesus alone, as he found him all the day encompassed with the multitude; so that it was impossible for him to get an opportunity to speak fully on those weighty affairs concerning which he intended to consult him." **Albert Barnes** said "Since no bad motive is imputed to him, it is most in accordance with Christian charity to suppose that his motives were such as God would approve, especially as the Saviour did not reprove him. We should not be disposed to blame men where Jesus did not, and we should desire to find goodness in every man rather than be ever on the search for evil motives."

amen, you must be born again. I know it rhymes, and that was not my intention, but it IS what our Master said. The *double amen* points to an *absolute truth* that cannot be circumvented. Jesus used His "double amen" in verses 3 and 5 of our focal text:

FOCAL John 3:3-5 (KJV) "... **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 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.**"

This New Birth cannot be circumvented. It is a **verily, verily** event in the life of anyone who wants to go to God's Heaven.

Illustrate: As a pastor I attend a lot of funerals, and many times the Lord allows me to preach so as to comfort the bereaved. I tell you this, dear Friends, there is no greater comfort for those left on this earth than the sure knowledge that your loved ones are *with Jesus*. Those who are **born again** by faith in Jesus Christ do not linger in their graves. Nor are they, as many funeral programs so poetically state, wafting on the breeze, sparkling in the dew of the field, or reincarnated as a butterfly or a deer in the forest. The born again are just that - BORN again, members of the family of God.

If you are born again by faith in Christ then you never die. No Beloved, you go where your Master has gone. On the third day the disciples returned to Christ's tomb and were greeted by an angel who proclaimed (Matthew 28:6) "He is not here: for he is risen, as he said." The

same can be said of every Christian who has trusted in the Beloved. He has risen, and all those who are born again are with Him. Do not look in a tomb nor in a grave for your loved ones. Do not look for them in the dew, nor in a butterfly, nor in a feeling, nor in any other concept alien to what Jesus Christ has declared to be true. He is not here, and neither are those who believed in Him prior to their departure from this life. If you are born again then you can confidently declare that death will never take you. If you are "absent from this body, you are present with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8). The double "amen" of Christ guarantees eternal life to all who believe on Him.

b. It is a necessary PERSONAL experience. Each person must experience New Birth for *themselves*. Directly following the **double amen** Jesus said:

FOCAL John 3:3-5 (KJV) "... **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 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.**"

Unless you have a real, saving relationship with Jesus Christ you shall **never enter into the Kingdom of God**. The Kingdom is reserved for those who are *family*, born into the family by faith in Christ Jesus. And, just as is true with *human physical birth*,

c. It is a necessary personal experience BROUGHT TO YOU BY ANOTHER. Jesus told Nicodemus:

FOCAL John 3:5 (KJV) "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."

There must be *two births* to qualify you for entrance into God's Heaven. You must be **born of water and of the Spirit**. Some have taken this text to mean that our Lord was teaching that *water baptism* was necessary for salvation. Away with this blasphemous thought! No ritual nor rite can save the believer, but salvation is

Ephesians 2:9 (NIV)¹⁶ "**not by works**, so that no one can boast."

If *water baptism* brought salvation, then would the Apostle Paul have said to the Corinthian Church:

1 Corinthians 1:14-17 (HCSB)¹⁷ "**I thank God that I baptized none of you** except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say you had been baptized in my name. I did, in fact, baptize the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't know if I baptized anyone else. **For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel**—not with clever words, so that the cross of Christ will not be emptied [of its effect]."

If water baptism were necessary for salvation would *any*

¹⁶ New International Version

¹⁷ Holman Christian Standard Bible

preacher say **I thank God I baptized none of you**. I believe that the Christian should want to follow our Lord in water baptism, for it is such a small work - the smallest He will ever ask you to do. If you are saved you should want to be baptized since His Great Commission commands it (**Matthew 28:19-20**). Yet water baptism can only be an evidence of salvation, not salvation itself. If this is not true then our Lord - God forbid - *lied* when He told the unbaptized thief that hung next to Him

Luke 23:43 (KJV) "... To day shalt thou **be with me in paradise**."

If Jesus went to Heaven, the thief went to Heaven. Jesus was baptized but the thief was not. So when Jesus told Nicodemus

FOCAL John 3:5 (KJV) "... Except a man **be born of water and of the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

He was speaking of human *physical birth* and divine *spiritual birth*. "**Born of water**" refers to human physical birth. Just before a child is born the *mother's water breaks*. The developing child must leave the sac that contains his amniotic fluid¹⁸, often referred to as "water" - and begin to breath oxygen. Two things must be true for *anyone* to be saved. First, you must be **born of water** - a member of the human race born into this

¹⁸ The clear straw-coloured liquid in the amniotic sac in which the fetus grows. It cushions the baby against pressure and knocks, allows the baby to move around and grow without restriction, helps the lungs develop, keeps the baby at a constant temperature, and provides a barrier against infection.

life. *Angels* or the *angelic race* have not had salvation offered to them. Jesus in speaking of Hell said that it was a place of *everlasting fire*

Matthew 25:41 (KJV) "... prepared for the devil and his angels:"

The fallen angels *have not* been offered salvation. Jesus did not die on the Cross for their sins! You must be human to be saved, physically born into this life.

You must also be **born of the Spirit**. That is, you are the possessor of *two births* - one physical and *one spiritual*. If you have *never been born of water* - if you are fallen angel (which you are not) - then you *cannot* be saved. But those of you who possess physical birth *without* spiritual birth will find yourself in the same place that the fallen angels are on judgment day, for He has said:

Matthew 25:41 (KJV) "... unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:"

Those who do not accept Christ as Savior, *surrendering all* to Him, will find themselves in the same place of everlasting fire that is prepared for the fallen angels. This is terribly sad, because Christ never died for those creatures, for the angelic race. He died for the *human race*, for the lesser creature, for you and I. If we will not be born again by faith in Christ our Redeemer then we will be consigned to that place of eternal death **prepared**

for the devil and his angels.

Oh my Beloved, I pray that God will help you understand salvation. Just as you had no work to do to be physically born, you have no work to do to be spiritually born. If Nicodemus had to be born again - and he was certainly a most educated and moral man - then we must be born again. If we are born again by faith in the finished work of Calvary, if we

Romans 10:9-11 (KJV) "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. {10} For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. {11} For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."

If saved, you will act saved. When born into this life you act as all born creatures act. When born into the Kingdom of God you realize your estate. You realize you are a child of the King, the Father of Eternity, and you call Him Lord of All! **Hannah Whitall Smith** wrote:

"It is of vital importance for us to understand that the Bible is a statement, not of theories, but of actual facts; and that things are not true because they are in the Bible, but they are only in the Bible because they are true. A little boy, who had been studying at school about the discovery of America, said to his father one day, 'Father, if I had been Columbus I would not have taken all that trouble to discover America.'

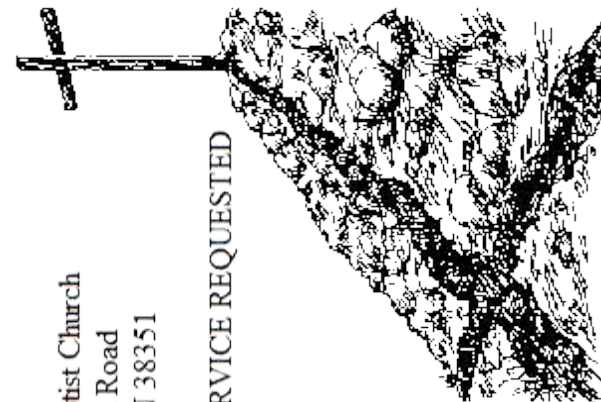
'Why, what would you have done?' asked the father.

'Oh,' replied the little boy, 'I would have just gone to the map and found it'. This little boy did not understand that maps are only pictures of already known places, and that America did not exist because it was on the map, but it could not be on the map until it was already known to exist. And similarly with the Bible. It is, like the map, a simple statement of facts; so that when it tells us that God loves us, it is only telling us something that is a fact, and that would not be in the Bible if it had not been already known to be a fact."¹⁹

If you come to Christ openly and, repenting of your sin confess Him as Lord and Savior, the Spirit of God will come and cause you to be *Born Again*. From that moment on there is no guarantee that you will never suffer in this life. There is no guarantee that you will be financially independent, nor is there any guarantee that the death angel will never come to your house. This life is but a vapor of the life that has yet to come. The guarantee that Christ makes to the Born Again is this - they **shall see the Kingdom of God**. God tells us in Jude that our guarantee - the guarantee of the *born again* is that Christ will...

"...protect you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless and with great joy ."

That is worth more than all the gold in America! I pray God lead you to this realization. Amen, and Amen!



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