

When Are You Born Again? I

Fred R. Coulter—January 17, 2015

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services.

When Satan has something going on over here and everybody's focused on everything with the news, with ISIS, with terror attacks, with the Middle East, what is Satan wanting to do within the Churches of God?

Remember, Satan does not come saying, 'I am the devil and I want to destroy you.' He comes and says, 'Well, have you ever thought of this?' That has happened recently with, even among a fellowship group that associates with us, that you are born again when you are baptized.

Let's go through that, and I also want to call your attention to the appendices that we have in the *Faithful Version Bible*, What Do You Mean "Born Again"? (Appendix P) You will see that that doctrine actually came from ancient Babylon and that even the Hindus have those elite people among the Hindus who are born again. People get that confused with water baptism.

John 3:1: "Now, there was a man of the Pharisees, Nicodemus by name, a ruler of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to Him..." (vs 1-2). He was afraid of all the political in-fighting and things that would go on. If there's any one thing that always troubles churches, it is *politics and exalting men and men who exalt themselves*. That always creates a problem. So he's trying to avoid it.

"... 'Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher *Who* has come from God..." (vs 2). Nicodemus ended up believing Him because he helped Joseph of Arimathea bury the body of Jesus at the end. But if you know you're a teacher come from God, why don't you listen to Him?

"...because no one is able to do the miracles that You are doing unless God is with him" (v 2). Jesus does not answer the question. He talks about something entirely different. As we read this, I want you to ask: Is the word *baptism* used here?

Verse 3: "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Truly, truly I say to you, **unless anyone is born again...** [that could be born anew] **...he cannot see the Kingdom of God.**'"

1-Corinthians 15:50: "Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God...**"

- What is an auxiliary false doctrine that goes along with this that it's connected with baptism? *Remember incrementalism!*

Once you get part of it, then you have another part!

- What is the other part of false doctrine? *You are in the Kingdom of God now!*
- Are you still flesh and blood? *Yes!*

How can you be in the Kingdom of God when 1-Corinthians 15:50 says: "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit *the* Kingdom of God..."

Jesus said in John 3:3: "...unless anyone is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." If you already have the Holy Spirit, can you see the Kingdom of God? *No, it hasn't come yet!* It's something that you inherit, so this cannot mean that born again is baptism.

Verse 4: "Nicodemus said to Him, 'How can a man who is old be born? Can he enter his mother's womb a second time and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly I say to you, **unless anyone has been born of water and of Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God**'" (v 5).

- you can't see it
- you can't inherit it
- you cannot enter it

1-Corinthians 15:50: "...flesh and blood cannot enter *the* Kingdom of God."

John 3:6: "**That which has been born of the flesh is flesh...**" Have all of us been born of the flesh? *Yes, indeed!* As a matter of fact, that goes in with the new book we're working on: *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born?* God has a great purpose for having us in the flesh *first*, before becoming spirit beings.

Verse 7: "Do not be amazed that I said to you, '**It is necessary for you to be born again.**'" Let's stop right there. We won't read anymore verses here in John 3 until a little later.

REPENTANCE and BAPTISM

What is baptism? When you read the appendix you will see that the Catholic doctrine in the *Vulgate Version* says 'born again of water.' They added the word *water*, which is not there in the Greek. Why did they do that? *So they could justify what they are doing!*

Is baptism a birth? or a death?

I just read a sermon by a man who gave it at one of our Feast of Tabernacles that it refers to baptism. Here's someone who has been in the Church 50 years. How can that be? That's because

we need to understand what the Bible is teaching us. So, while there's a war going on in the world, there's also a spiritual war going on within the Churches of God. This ties right in with the Protestant doctrines, and everything, too. All have to repent; *everyone who lives in sin!*

Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." We know there has to be repentance before baptism. In order to understand what God is doing, let's realize this: **Only God, through Jesus Christ, can make you justified!** Justified means put into right standing with God, only through His sacrifice. Can't come any other way.

A person can be baptized and not repent and the baptism doesn't change him. There must first be repentance of sin, acknowledgement of sin, coming to God, asking for forgiveness of sin through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. *Then* comes baptism.

Verse 24: "*But* are being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that *is* in Christ Jesus." Nothing else can put you in right standing with God except the sacrifice of Christ upon repentance. Then after that there must be:

- loving God
- serving God
- obeying God

But that must be in the *spirit*. Once you repent, once you have been put in right standing with God—and this has been done in an open way—when you repent of sins and are justified, it does not give you license to do as you please.

Even the best people out there in society, who are good and nice people—and there are a good number of them—does not mean that they're Christian. They may follow a lot of Christian precepts, but to be a Christian you must have the Spirit of Christ and God the Father. That cannot come unless there is repentance and then baptism.

After you have been justified, v 31: "Are we then abolishing *the* Law through faith? MAY IT NEVER BE! Rather, we are establishing *the* Law." How does the Bible say you establish law?

- *for Israel* they were written on the tables of stone
- *for Christians* the laws and commandments are to be in our heart and in our mind

Is that not much better than stone or a plaque on the wall? *Yes, indeed!*

"...MAY IT NEVER BE! Rather, we are establishing *the* law" (v 31).

- What about human nature?
- What do we do with human nature?

- How can we get that squared around?

Romans 5:21: "So that even as sin has reigned unto death, so also might the grace of *God* reign through righteousness..."

What is righteousness? *The opposite of lawlessness.* 'All Your commandments are righteousness.' Righteousness also refers to the forgiveness of sin through the sacrifice of Christ.

"...unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (v 21). Something must happen and that is after repentance, then baptism. Why baptism?

Romans 6:1: "What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin, so that grace may abound? MAY IT NEVER BE!..." (vs 1-2).

You go through the book of Romans and there are about eight times where he says, 'MAY IT NEVER BE!' Why is that in caps? Because it is the Greek meaning emphatically: *May this thought never come into existence!* If you say, which is the whole problem of the world, that, 'God, I like what you have, but I'm going to make a little adjustment over here. God, I know You're perfect, but You're not as perfect as me, so we're going to add this to it.' That's what they did with the *Latin Vulgate*.

"...We who died to sin..." (v 2). **Baptism is a death!** If you die to sin, that means you are not going to let sin rule in your life. How's that going to be accomplished, because it is a spiritual battle?

"...how shall we live any longer therein?" (v 2). But you have got to get rid of the past and you must get rid of the old man. That is a spiritual thing that God does for us.

Verse 3: "Or are you ignorant... [Don't you know? *He's talking to brethren!*] ...that we, as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus, were baptized into His death?"

Everything that Christ went through, you look out at the world, look how horrible it is. Look at all the death, all the slaughtering, all the killing, all the drugs, all the sex, every sin that there is. Christ took that upon Himself to make payment for it. Why?

1. because His creation with Adam and Eve was tested to see whether they would obey God or not

Remember that the plan of God, from the foundation of the world, was for the Lamb of God to take care of the sins of the world.

2. because of the penalty for their sin

They were face-to-face right with God, day in and day out, however long they were in the Garden of Eden, and they knew God's way. All they had to do

was to obey God's voice. Because of their sin, they were judged, removed from the Garden of Eden, and now all of their offspring would inherit 'the law of sin and death.' We all have it, "...baptized into His death" (v 3).

God judged them, put that into them; therefore, only God, by His action, His love and His mercy can reconcile that and forgive it. That's why He came in the flesh. Think about it! *We're all made in the image of God and He came in the flesh so that He could die*, live a perfect life and not sin, so He could redeem His creation. Then all of those who would come into the Kingdom of God would learn first:

- love
- faith
- obedience
- to understand that you cannot live in sin forever

This is quite a thing. When there is a baptism, this is what actually occurs:

Verse 4: "Therefore, we were buried with Him through the baptism into the death..."—because our sins, every sin that any human being has ever done, was laid upon Christ—all of our sin.

"...so that, just as Christ was raised from *the* dead by the glory of the Father, in the same way, we also should walk in newness of life" (v 4). That comes very close to what people would say, 'You're born again.' But *that is not so!*

Verse 5: "For if we have been conjoined together in the likeness of His death, so also shall we be... [future] ...*in the likeness of His* resurrection." We saw we cannot *inherit* or *see* or *enter* the Kingdom of God as flesh and blood.

Verse 6: "Know this, that our old man was co-crucified with *Him* in order that the body of sin **might be** destroyed..." It doesn't say 'so that the body of sin *is* destroyed,' but **might be**. There's something that we have to do after baptism because of the nature that we have received.

"...so that we might no longer be enslaved to sin; because the one who has died *to sin* has been justified from sin" (vs 6-7). So, baptism is

- a death
- a burial
- a symbolic pledge

You can read in *The Christian Passover* book or *The Day Jesus the Christ Died* how that applies to what Abraham went through and the pledge that Jesus gave at that time that He would die for the sins of the world.

Verse 7: "Because the one who has **died to sin** has been justified from sin." That means *you've been made in right standing!* All of your past sins have been forgiven, right at that point. There are some pretty nasty sins that have been committed, pretty terrible things that have been done. Look at what the Apostle Paul did.

I've been reading about those who have recovered from working in abortion clinics. They've had a tough time.

Verse 8: "Now, if we died together with Christ... [joined together] ...we believe that we shall also live with Him... [When? *At the resurrection!*] ...knowing that Christ, having been raised from *the* dead, dies no more; death no longer has any dominion over Him. For when He died, He died unto sin once for all... [all inclusive] ...but in that He lives, He lives unto God. In the same way also... [because you have been baptized] ...you should indeed reckon yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God through God through Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore, do not let sin rule in your mortal body by obeying it in the lusts thereof" (vs 8-12).

Human nature has not been totally removed. As we covered recently, what happens when you receive the Holy Spirit is ***the circumcision of the heart and mind***. Now you have something to fight against sin.

Let's see something very interesting in Psalm 119:132: "Look upon me, and be gracious unto me, as You are known to do for those who love Your name. Order my steps by Your Word..." (vs 132-133). I want you to think about what New Testament doctrine this really is. "...Order my steps by Your Word..."

What did Jesus say of the Word of God? *Your Word is the Truth! Sanctify them in Your Truth!*

"...and do not let any iniquity have dominion [rule] over me" (v 133). This tells us we still, even though after being baptized, have to overcome the sin within, because that's where sin begins.

Let's put it together this way. This is why you have heard that repentance is something we need to do all the time. Why? How many things have come into your mind that are sin? How many things have entered into your mind that's just a flash of a second on television? *It's there!*

I just imagine that if we had a hymnal with Christmas carols in it, you'd all know them. We've overcome it to a good degree, but every year we've got to fight it again.

Let's see something very important, because God's solution in overcoming sin is to get rid of it

from *within*. *As a man thinks, so he is!* If you have the Word of God in your mind and you use that to overcome human nature, and you use that to think, **then you are building the character of God!** God wants us to build the character.

How often do we need to repent? Matthew 6:9: ‘Therefore, you are... [a command] ...to pray after this manner... [an outline; it is not a word-for-word prayer] ...Our Father...’

All the names of God in the Old Testament are *descriptive nouns of His attributes, not His personal name!* They are used as names, but they are not personal names. Here we have the first introduction to the sacred name of the Great God in heaven above, Who is Sovereign over all. We, through God’s Spirit, have direct access to God *our Father*.

I defy anyone to find in the Bible any other names than *the Father and Jesus*. Mary was commanded to call Him Jesus. ‘You shall call His name Jesus.’ The Christ means the Anointed One or the Savior. So, the only two sacred names in the whole Bible are: **the Father, Our Father**—either one—and **our Lord Jesus, Who is the Christ!** All of the other names are descriptive nouns. He did not even appear to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob using the name YHVH or Jehovah or Yahweh. He appeared to them as the *Almighty God*, or *God Almighty*—El Shaddai. But that’s a description of God’s power. He is the God Who is almighty.

What happens when people get these doctrines in their mind? This is important. You’re going to find a lot of New Testament doctrine in the Old Testament. It’s expanded in the New Testament. But what did the apostles use to preach the Gospel? There was no Matthew, Mark, Luke or John written. There were no Epistles of Paul. *They used the Old Testament!*

You need to think about this; everyone needs to think about this: What is in your mind? I just read a transcript of a man who said, ‘I believe, I believe.’ He should have said, ‘I think this, but I don’t know if it’s entirely correct.’ That’s why I have my cowbell (to use in speculation).

Ezekiel 14:1: “And some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me. And the Word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts...’” (vs 1-3). That’s why we have the circumcision of the heart through baptism, because there is to be, through the grace of God, **nothing between us and God the Father and Jesus Christ!**

“...and put the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I at all be inquired of by them?” (v 3).

Think about it. God is not going to pay attention to anyone who decides that he or she has greater knowledge than God, to come to God and tell Him that you have a better way than His way.

Verse 4: “Therefore speak to them, and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Every man of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and comes to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him according to the multitude of his idols, so that I may take the house of Israel in their own heart because they have deserted Me for their idols—**all of them**”’” (vs 4-5). Whenever anyone goes *their own way*, following Satan and the world.

Verse 6: “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Repent and turn yourselves from your idols, and turn away your faces from all your abominations. For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger who lives in Israel, who separates himself from Me and sets up his idols in his heart, and puts the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and comes to a prophet to ask of him concerning Me; I the LORD will answer him Myself”’” (vs 6-7).

How is that? The very laws of God are going to come upon him and against him because they work automatically. God doesn’t have to come and do anything. He set it up that they work just like the law of gravity, the tides of the ocean, the movement of the air, and everything.

Matthew 6:9: “...‘Our Father Who *is* in heaven, hallowed be Your name; Your kingdom come...’” (vs 9-10). First thing we look to is the Kingdom of God. We are not *in* the Kingdom of God, but we are under the jurisdiction of the Kingdom of God, having the Spirit of God and the Word of God and the laws and commandments of God. We’re not in it, yet.

“...Your will be done on earth, as *it is* in heaven; give us this day our daily bread...” (vs 10-11). This is a *daily* prayer. Doesn’t say: give us our bread for the next month.

“...and forgive us our debts...” (v 12)-- Luke 11 says *sins*, because we sin by action, in thought and in mind. Why? *Because ‘the law of sin and death’ is in there!* We are told back in Rom. 6: **Do not let sin rule over you!**

Notice there’s another caveat, v 12: “...as we also forgive our debtors” That’s why we need to have:

- love toward each other
- forgiveness toward each
- understanding of each other

Let me just tell you one thing: If you've got something stuck in the craw of your mind, back here somewhere against someone, and you haven't forgiven, or you haven't gone to that person directly—if it's serious enough to go to them and tell them what the problem is—then it's like putting a cover over yourself. If you have that in the back of your mind, you better get it out of your mind.

That's why in the series that I did on healing. One of the most important things is you need to *forgive*. **Forgive others!** What if the person is already dead and you're in a spirit of bitterness because of what that person did to you? Maybe it was really bad or horrible. *You forgive them before God even though they are dead because you did not do that and you have that sin in your mind of remembering it as something against that person!* 'I remember when...'

- We are to learn the lesson of our experiences.
- *We are not to dwell on the evil of them.*
- We are to learn the lesson so that we don't repeat it.
- *We are to grow in grace and knowledge.*

Verse 13: “‘And lead us not into temptation... [into severe trial] ...but rescue us from the evil one... [only God can rescue us from Satan the devil] ...For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.’ For, if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (vs 13-15).

Romans 6:12: “Therefore, do not let sin rule in your mortal body by obeying it in the lusts thereof.” Cut it off when the lust comes. You may have to spend more than just one prayer in overcoming something, because it may have a stronghold. We're to bring strongholds into obedience to Christ.

Verse 13: “Likewise, do not yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin...” We've got to watch what we're doing. We're still in the flesh. *We are not in the spirit. We have not been born again; we have been raised out of the watery grave!* There's a certain characteristic about being born again that is so obvious that it makes it absolutely impossible for us to be born again through baptism or the receipt of the Holy Spirit.

“...rather, yield yourselves to God as those who are alive from *the* dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not rule over you because you are not **under law**...” (v 13)—God's judgment upon anyone, anywhere at

any time. This has nothing to do with commandment-keeping or not. This has to do with how God judges the world. Everybody is under law.

Romans 7:1: “Are you ignorant, brethren...” He gets after them a couple of times. In Rom. 15 he says it's ‘a shame; some of you are saying there's no resurrection.’

“...(for I am speaking to those who know law), that the Law rules over a man for as long a time as he may live?” (v 1).

Does law rule everybody on earth? Everywhere? all the time? *Yes, indeed!* If they keep it in the letter of the Law, they receive certain blessings. If they don't, judgment may be upon them in death. What happens to those who think that they can withstand all kinds of drugs and overdose and die? Did the law of overdosing kill them? *Yes!* When people sin and have a guilty conscience and if they learn how to live with sin, harden themselves, their conscience will no longer be guilty because it *rules* over them as long as you live.

Under law means:

- you don't have God's Spirit
- you are in the world
- God hasn't called you

Under grace means:

- God has called you
- you have repented
- you've been baptized
- you have had hands laid on for the receiving of the Holy Spirit
- now you have direct contact with God the Father in heaven above

That is what it means to be under grace. Therefore, because we are under grace, should we sin? *No!* That's why Paul said, ‘MAY IT NEVER BE!’ Think about the calling that God has for those people who have His Spirit. You have direct contact with God the Father:

- to overcome sin
- to repent of your sins
- to pray to Him
- to worship Him
- to love Him
- to keep His commandments
- to have His angels about you
- to know that you are called according to His purpose
- to know that you're going to be in the Kingdom of God

That's something! Think on that! That's what it means to be *under grace*.

Romans 6:14: “For sin shall not rule over you because you are not under law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law, but under grace? **MAY IT NEVER BE!**” (vs 14-15). So, **it shows why those who are baptized have not been born again!** This is part of it.

Verse 16: “Don’t you realize that to whom you yield yourselves *as* servants to obey, you are servants of the one you obey, whether *it is* of sin unto death, or of **obedience** unto righteousness?” There’s that word *obedience*.

That’s the way it is. The world is serving sin under the power of the wicked one. They are all *under law*. Those who have the Holy Spirit of God are *under grace*. You receive that by repentance and baptism, laying on of hands to receive the Holy Spirit of God. That’s why you don’t need all of these extraneous things, such as tassels, phylacteries, prayer shawls, hoods with slits so that the women can look out and see the world. Isn’t that a lovely existence? And skirts down to the ground that you trip over, or whatever.

That’s why the names of God in the Old Testament do not transfer over to the New Testament. There is not one Hebrew written name of God in the New Testament.

If you were a Jew and you speak Hebrew, then it’s perfectly all right to use the name Yeshua, if that is the correct pronunciation. But who created all languages in the first place? *God did!* Does He call people from difference nations? different races? *Yes, indeed,* just look at us here.

Does He send a handbook of Hebrew sacred names for them to learn? Yes, that’s the first thing that happens for the 144,000. They get a handbook. And the great innumerable multitude. *Never happen!* Why? Even if you could pronounce every Hebrew name exactly correctly, what if you have idols in your mind?

- Did the correct pronunciation change your sin?
- Did the correct pronunciation do away with it? *No!*
- Why?
- For those under grace, what is God judging? *Our hearts!*

That’s what God is judging. Far different from the world. Besides, when you are resurrected and are a spirit being, you are going to receive a new name.

(go to the next track)

We know that after baptism you are not perfect. **The Protestants believe**—and I don’t know if I’ll have time to get into the Scriptures there—that after you accept Jesus you are born again and you

cannot sin because of the poor translation in the *King James Version* of 1-John 3. I got an e-mail the other day, ‘Where is it possible to get a good translation of the Bible that is a word-for-word rendition, like the *King James Version*.’ I said, ‘We have one. That’s the best you will get.’

Let’s read something in John 3 that we didn’t read before. Let’s understand that Jesus made it really clear that **to be born again means you are in a different state of existence!**

John 3:5: “Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly I say to you, **unless anyone has been born of water and of Spirit...**’ Didn’t say *baptism*, though baptism is by water; that’s where the confusion comes.

“...he cannot... [Greek is ‘ou dunatai’—*it is an impossibility*] ...enter the Kingdom of God. That which has been **born of the flesh is flesh**... [that’s what we are] ...and that which has been **born of the Spirit is spirit**” (vs 5-6).

- How do you comprehend that?
- Does that mean you receive the Holy Spirit?
- What is the difference between a begettal and a birth?

In human life, it’s nine months. In elephants, it’s nearly two years. You cannot be born of the flesh unless you have first been begotten. When you’re first begotten, are you ready to enter the human world? *No*, couldn’t even see you unless it were under a high-powered microscope. What has to happen? You have to:

- grow
- develop
- be ready for birth

Verse 7: “Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘It is necessary for you to be born again.’” He’s talking to an old man. Verse 8 was left out in the sermon where the man proclaimed that born again has to do with baptism:

Verse 8: “The wind blows where it wills, and you hear its sound, but you do not know *the place* from which it comes and *the place* to which it goes; so *also* is everyone who **has been born**... [past tense] ...of the Spirit.”

How many here have been baptized? *All of you*. Disappear! If baptism is born again, then disappear. The way I want you to do it is all stand up and walk through this wall. When Jesus was raised from the dead, how did He appear to the disciples? *He came and knocked on the door and said, ‘Open the door for Me so I can come in and talk to you.’ NO!* He walked through the wall!

Do people become invisible like the wind after they have been raised out of the watery grave of baptism? *No!* So, what on earth is Jesus talking about, born of water, and born of spirit?

Verse 6: **“That which has been born of the flesh is flesh; and that which has been born of the Spirit is spirit”**—composed of spirit. That which has been born of *the flesh* means you’re composed of flesh. You all understand that because that’s what you are. If you’ve been born of the Spirit, you are a spirit being.

John 4:23: “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father...”—not Yahweh, not Ancient of Days, not El Shaddai, *the Father*. The Greek is ‘pater’ or ‘patros.’ Father is almost every language is nearly the same: *papa, dada, abba*.

When you were growing up did you go up to your father and say—whatever your last name is—‘Mr. Jones’? *No!* Why do you call upon the Father? *Because you are going to be His spiritual family!* That’s why! That shows God’s great love for us that He calls us and gives us His Spirit and gives us the grace to have direct contact with Him and call Him *our Father*.

Verse 23: “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father is indeed seeking those who worship Him in this manner... [have to have the Holy Spirit to do that] ...God *is* Spirit...” (vs 23-24). Not a Spirit, but Spirit, composed of spirit; He is a Spirit Being. So, it wouldn’t be wrong to say a Spirit at this place, but we’re talking about His substance.

“...and those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and in Truth” (v 24). Entirely different!

Let’s continue on about baptism and death. Rom. 6 tells us that baptism is a death. We are conjoined to the death of Jesus Christ. *We rise out of the watery grave, we’re to walk in newness of life, but we are still flesh and blood!* We are to overcome sin with the Spirit of God. We are to develop the character of God, so that *at the resurrection* every vestige of the flesh will be gone. Let’s read what we are to do. This shows that we have, what the Bible calls *overcoming*.

Romans 6:15: “Don’t you realize that to whom you yield yourselves *as* servants to obey, you are servants of the one you obey, whether *it is* of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”, There are the seven steps to sin (James 1); in summary:

- lust
- conception
- action

- then sin

Verse 17: “But thanks *be* to God, that you were *the* servants of sin...” That’s what everyone who is under law is; they are servants of sin. They may keep some of the laws of God, but look what happens when you have no law. Look at our government today. It’s becoming unglued because there’s no law. It starts with the President.

“...but you have obeyed from *the* heart that form of doctrine which was delivered to you. And having been delivered from sin...” (vs 17-18). Understand that *if you have the Holy Spirit of God within you, you have that power of God:*

- to overcome sin
- to deliver you from sin God’s way
 - ✓through His Spirit
 - ✓through His Word
 - ✓through repentance
 - ✓through drawing close to God
 - ✓through walking in His commandments

“...you became *the servants of righteousness*” (v 18). That’s what we are to serve. That’s why we are here today. The Sabbath Day is a righteous day. It’s a righteous Law of God and we are here.

- we have the Spirit of God, which is the Spirit of righteousness
- we are here to obey Him
- we love God
- we love Christ
- we love each other
- we love His law

All of these things are central to the one who is of the mind of the Spirit. Servants of righteousness.

Verse 19: “I speak from a human point of view because of the weakness of your flesh...” There’s still flesh. Remember if you’re born of the spirit, you’re like the wind. Baptism does not accomplish that.

“...for just as you *once* yielded your members in bondage to uncleanness, and to lawlessness unto lawlessness, so now yield your members in bondage to righteousness unto sanctification” (v 19).

- sanctified in the Truth
- we grow in grace in knowledge
- it is a lifelong process

Sidebar: As we get older, which we all are, you look in the Bible at those righteous men who sinned. They were older. David was probably about 54 at the time, maybe 52. Hezekiah was told he was going to die and God gave him 15 years. After the great battle that happened, God sent the angels to destroy the armies of the Assyrians, 180,000 of

them. They were three days carrying all the loot and the wealth back into Jerusalem and Judah and stacked a lot of it in the treasure house of God.

What this did for Babylon is that released them from the clutches of the Assyrians. So, they sent some ambassadors over to Hezekiah to find out what happened. ‘We heard strange things.’ They all died. Was that true? How could an army of 180,000 all die in one night? Imagine how Sennacherib was when he got up in the morning and it was quiet. What’s going on? Where are the troops? He opened the locks on the tent of his headquarters and looked out and they were all on the ground. That must have scared him absolutely to the core of his being.

So, the two ambassadors came over from Babylon. They wanted to know how this great battle took place. You’d want to know that, too. Just think what would happen with all the television crews today. They’d be sent over there. ‘What happened, Hezekiah?’ *Oh, this happened, that happened and the other thing happened.* ‘Where’s all the loot that they took from Egypt and from all the other countries that they conquered?’ *Come here, I’ll show you.*

So, he opened up all the treasure house, everything that God had given them as the spoil from the victory, and he made a grave mistake in his old age. Isaiah was told to go talk to Hezekiah. He did, and Isaiah said, ‘Who were these men and where did they come from?’ *They came from Babylon.* ‘What did you show them?’ *I showed them everything.* Great mistake! God already promised him 15 years extra life, but He said, ‘You see all of this that you have? It’s going to Babylon, but it won’t happen in your day.’ God was merciful. So, instead of really repenting Hezekiah said, ‘That’s good. It won’t happen in my day.’ Grave mistake!

I know another man and I heard him personally say it. ‘I’ve been in the Church of God so long that Satan has no more interest in me.’ Grave mistake! So, as we get older, part of my prayer is, every often, ‘Oh, Lord, keep me from the mistakes.’ I don’t want to make any grave mistakes. Sin is not to have dominion over us.

Verse 20: “For when you were *the* servants of sin, you were free from righteousness. Therefore, what fruit did you have then in the *things* of which you are now ashamed? For the end result of those things *is* death.... [they could still die] ...But now that you have been delivered from sin... [with God’s Spirit] ...and have become servants of God, you have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end result *is* eternal life” (vs 20-22). ***No one is going to get there until the seventh trump!***

How did Paul view baptism, even after he had been an apostle for quite a while? Romans 7:7.

“What then shall we say? *Is* the Law sin?...” That’s the way human beings do.

Remember what it was, against the law to possess marijuana? smoke marijuana? ‘So many people are doing it, we need to get rid of that law, because that law is making us disobedient.’ ***NO!*** The law does not make anyone disobedient. The *breaking of the law* is what disobedience is.

He says: “...MAY IT NEVER BE! But I had not known sin, except through the Law. Furthermore, I would not have been conscious of lust, except *that* the Law said, ‘You shall not covet’” (v 7). He knew that but he didn’t understand it.

Do people who view things on television or online that are greatly sinful, do they think they’re doing anything wrong? *No!* How many millions are hooked to pornography, hooked to gambling, whatever. Didn’t know it was sin. Didn’t know what covetousness was. You see that on advertisements.

You’ve all seen this ad about the Buick that this family bought. They came home and the neighbors are over there, ‘What kind of car was that that he got?’ Grandma is in there and saying, ‘What kind of car is that? I haven’t seen anything like this.’ There are two ads. One of them is with a grandma. They get her out there in the new Buick and she’s sitting there and she says, ‘Is this a Buick?’

The other one is the young couple that just bought the Buick and they couldn’t tell what it was because it looks more like a Camry than anything else. They’re looking out there with the binoculars and so the ones who just bought the car wave to them and they wave back. The moral of the ad is, ‘If you want to be accepted, buy a Buick.’ *Lust*, be like them. ‘Oh, I wish I had that.’ Go work for it and buy it yourself.

‘Why do these people have more than me? Give me some of what you have.’ Obama says yes, give them some. Whatever it may be. ‘Oh, I wish I was beautiful like this woman. I wish I was handsome and strong like this man.’ Whatever! *That’s lust, that’s covetousness!* Where does that start? *In the mind!*

Verse 8: “But sin, having grasped an opportunity by the commandment, worked out within me every *kind* of lust because apart from law, sin *was* dead. For I was once alive without law... [without understanding the function of law; it didn’t operate in his life] ...but after the commandment came, sin revived, and ***I died***” (vs 8-9).

What does that mean? *That means that with God’s Spirit and calling, God convicts you of what you are doing that is sin!* You see that it is sin and you know that you’ve got to repent. And he said,

“...and I died.” How did he die? *The death of baptism!* Notice that Col. 2:20 substantiates Rom. 6.

Colossians 2:20: “Therefore, if you have died together *with Christ* from the elements of the world...” Elements includes everything in the world:

- spiritual powers of the world
- ways of the world
- morays of the world

“...why are you subjecting yourselves to *the* decrees of men as if you were living in *the* world?” (v 20). *You are dead to Christ!* Notice what we are to do after baptism:

Colossians 3:1: “Therefore, if you have been raised together with Christ... [out of the watery grave] ...seek the things that are above...”

- God the Father
- Jesus Christ
- the love of God
- the faith of God
- the belief of God
- developing the character of God

“...where Christ is sitting at *the* right hand of God. Set your affection on the things that are above, and not on things that are on the earth” (vs 1-2). God will take care of you.

The greatest reward is not what you receive now. It’s going to be when you are resurrected and you are a spirit being and you receive your reward.

Verse 3: “For you have died...” How can he talk to dead people? You ever walk out to a graveyard and say, ‘All of you are dead now, listen up here, folks’? *NO!* The only way they died was died the death of baptism.

“...and your life has been hid together with Christ in God. When Christ, *Who is* our life, is manifested, **then** you also shall be manifested with Him in glory” (vs 3-4). That’s when you are born again, **when Christ returns!**

Let’s look at something else here. The reason that we are not changed instantaneously from flesh to spirit at baptism and receipt of the Holy Spirit is because we’ve got a lot of growing and changing to do. That growing and changing is a cooperative thing with what God does within us.

Ephesians 2:8: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this *especially* is not of your own selves...”

- No one goes to God and tells God how to save a person!
- No one tells God how to do anything!

They forget the Scripture which says, ‘All nations before Me are like a drop in a bucket.’ As

small as conception is, that could be equivalent to a true statement that if all nations were reduced to the point of conception, that pinprick of life may be all the nations in the world would be no more than a drop in a bucket. That’s why we have the book that is going to be coming, *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were You Born?*

All of us at one point, at the point of conception, you would have to have a very high-powered microscope to see that speck of life. Now look at you, trillions of time more. And besides, God has put in there the perpetuation of the human flesh through what He has given for our inheritance in the flesh.

For what purpose? If the only purpose is to recognize your sins, believe in Jesus, accept Jesus Christ, and now you are saved, and that’s the finished complete work of God, why not take you right then? *Because God has something He’s going to do!* God is going to do it, but we need to work with God.

Here it is right here, v 9: “Not of works... [your own works] ...so that no one may boast. **For we are His workmanship...**” (vs 9-10). Everything about us physically and spiritually came from God. *We have absolutely nothing we didn’t receive!* Think about it.

“...**created** in Christ Jesus unto *the* good works that God ordained beforehand in order that we might walk in them” (v 10).

As we walk in the way of God, as we pray and study, as we overcome day-by-day, day-in and day-out, month-in and month-out, year-in and year-out, and all the things that we go through, **God is working in our mind; He is creating in us!**

That “...we might walk in them.” This is very interesting. For in the Greek *we* is first-person plural. “...might walk in them” is a present-tense subjunctive verb. What does that mean, especially for all of us who never really learned English? *Subjunctive verb* is this: it is a **may**, you may. It is also an **if**, meaning you have to choose to do it. He has these good works. What are the good works of God?

- His commandments
- love
- peace
- hope
- joy
- character
- virtue

He is molding our mind and heart! We are His workmanship created in or through Christ Jesus!

Just like when someone supposedly professes in Christ, accepts forgiveness of sin, they are now born again. *No! No! No!* They have not yet been saved, because *salvation is a process*. Very important to understand; *salvation is a process* and we're confronted with this process every day and choices every day.

1-Corinthians 15:1: "Now I am declaring to you, brethren, the *same* Gospel that I proclaimed to you, which you also received, *and* in which you are now standing." Standing under the Gospel, under the grace, you're within the laws of God, etc.

Verse 2: "By which... [the Gospel] ...you are also **being** saved..." Salvation is a process with God's Spirit through conversion and the Spirit of God.

"...**if** you are holding fast *the* words that I proclaimed to you; otherwise you have believed in vain" (v 2).

CONVERSION

Let's look at what conversion is. What happens after baptism when you have hands laid on and you receive the Spirit of God? *Since it is the Spirit of God, it is invisible!* Are there things taking place right now, going on in your body that automatically are there that you don't have to think about? *Yes, indeed!* You don't have to think about sitting there, 'Now I must keep my eyes focused, looking straight ahead.' Happens automatic. When we receive the Spirit of God, that process starts to work.

John 14:15: "If you love Me..." This is what we are to grow into. The whole purpose of still living in the flesh is to *grow in grace and knowledge and all the fruits of the Holy Spirit and grow in our love to God* that it is literally:

- with all our hearts
- with all our mind
- with all our soul
- with all our being

Not God somewhere over here in a corner, or God in a hip pocket, God in a purse, or God in Sunday-worship, but God **in** you. His Spirit **in** you.

Verse 15: "If you love Me, keep the commandments—namely, My commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that it may be with you throughout the age: *Even* the Spirit of the Truth, which the world cannot receive... [because they don't repent] ...because it perceives it not, nor knows it; but you know it because it dwells with you, and shall be **within** you" (vs 15-17). He's talking to the disciples before they had the Spirit of God put into their minds.

Verse 18: "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world shall see Me no longer; but you shall see Me. Because I live, you shall live also. In that day, you shall know that I am in My Father, and you *are* in Me, and I am in you" (vs 18-20).

Imagine what that day was when Jesus appeared to them after He ascended to the Father and came back and walked through the wall and said, 'Peace.' Then He taught them for 40 days. Doesn't appear that very much of that was written down. I'm sure some of it was.

Verse 21: "The one who has My commandments and is keeping them, that is the one who loves Me; and the one who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him."

Remember this: *In spite of any trial, in spite of any trouble, in spite of any difficulty, **God loves you!*** You reciprocate that love back to God. God is working to form and create in you and through the Gospel of Jesus Christ you **are being** saved.

Verse 22: "Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, 'Lord, what has happened that You are about to manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?' Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word...' (vs 22-23). The whole message of Christ. Notice what will happen. This is a key important verse in overcoming, in our relationship with God. This must happen *first* and this is the *earnest* of the promised salvation.

"...and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him" (v 23)—through the Spirit of God. *We are still in the flesh*, but now God is creating these things in us:

- His mind
- the mind of Christ
- the love of God
- the faith of God
- everything about God

"...We will come to him and make Our abode **with** him." That is something!

Verse 24: "The one who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word that you hear is not Mine, but the Father's, Who sent Me." There can't be any greater demarcation point than that.

Romans 8:13: "Because if you are living according to *the* flesh..." We still have flesh and we could live according to it. We have the choice to live according to it or according to God's way.

"...you shall die..." (v 13). Didn't he already die the death of water baptism? *Yes!* What is this then? *The second death!*

“...but if by *the* Spirit... [of God the Father and Christ *in* you] ...you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you shall live. For as many as are led by *the* Spirit of God, these are *the* sons of God. Now you have not received a spirit of bondage again unto fear, but you have received *the* Spirit of sonship, whereby we call out, ‘Abba, Father’” (vs 13-15).

Brethren, I don’t think there are any words in the human language which can really express the greatness of what has been written here in its actual functioning. This describes it, but the actual functioning of it and what God is doing in us, the workmanship in us is fantastic!

Verse 16: “The Spirit itself bears witness conjointly with our own spirit... [after baptism] ...*testifying* that we are *the* children of God. Now if *we* are children, *we* are also heirs—truly heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer together with Him, so that we may also be glorified together with Him” (vs 16-17). ***Not yet glorified; not yet born again!***

Verse 18: “For I reckon that the sufferings of the present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory that shall be revealed in us.... [we’re not there, yet; this is our hope] ...For the earnest expectation of the creation itself is awaiting the manifestation of the sons of God” (vs 18-19). ***The world is waiting for us!***

That’s why when you look at the world and everything that’s going wrong, no one will ask the question, ‘Why don’t they do it right?’ *They are incapable! They don’t know God!* They may have some principles of God, but they don’t *know* God. Now is not the Kingdom of God.

Whenever you see that, let that be motivation for you to grow in grace and knowledge and not slack off so that you will be prepared to rule with Christ.

Verse 20: “Because the creation was subjected to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of Him who subjected *it* in hope, in order that the creation itself might be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God” (vs 20-21). When they are resurrected when Christ returns. What a great hope, think of that.

Verse 22: “For we know that all the creation is groaning together and travailing together until now.” Don’t we know that today? *Yes*, just turn on your television and go through your 5,000 channels that you have and you’ll find out.

Verse 23: “And not only *that*, but even we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit...” It is the earnest, God’s promise to you that you will be

in the resurrection and become a spirit being as God is.

“...also groan within ourselves, awaiting the sonship—the redemption of our bodies. For by hope we were saved; but hope that is seen is not hope; for why would anyone still be hoping for what he sees?” (vs 23-24). No, you wouldn’t do that. You have the Spirit of God.

Verse 9 will pull it all together: “However... [as God views you, even though we are flesh and blood] ...you are not in *the* flesh, but in *the* Spirit, if *the* Spirit of God is indeed dwelling with you... [Jesus promised that it would] ...But if anyone does not have *the* Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. But if Christ *be* within you, the body *is* indeed dead because of sin; however, the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. Now, if the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from *the* dead is dwelling within you...” (vs 9-11), We have the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of Him, Who is the Father, Who is dwelling in Christ.

“...He Who raised Christ from *the* dead will also quicken your mortal bodies because of His Spirit that dwells **within** you” (v 11).

That’s going to be quite a day! After everybody is resurrected and on the Sea of Glass and Christ is there, He presents us to the Father and He says, ‘Behold, the children that You have given Me.’ ***We’re all the children of God the Father given to Christ to work with Christ to bring peace to this earth!***

- that can’t happen *until you are born again*
- that can’t happen until there is the resurrection

So nobody is born again by a death burial in baptism.

While the world is fighting all of these things out there, ***we better be on guard for false doctrine coming in the back door!***

Scriptural References:

- 1) John 3:1-3
- 2) 1-Corinthians 15:50
- 3) John 3:3-5
- 4) 1 Corinthians 15:50
- 5) John 3:6-7
- 6) Romans 3:23-24, 31
- 7) Romans 5:21
- 8) Romans 6:1-12
- 9) Psalm 119:132-133
- 10) Matthew 6:9
- 11) Ezekiel 14:1-7
- 12) Matthew 6:9-15

- 13) Romans 6:12-13
- 14) Romans 7:1
- 15) Romans 6:14-16
- 16) John 3:5-8, 6
- 17) John 4:23-24
- 18) Romans 6:16-22
- 19) Romans 7:7-9
- 20) Colossians 2:20
- 21) Colossians 3:1-4
- 22) Ephesians 2:8-10
- 23) 1-Corinthians 15:1-2
- 24) John 14:15-24
- 25) Romans 8:13-24, 9-11

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Luke 11
- Romans 15
- James 1

Also referenced

From *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version: Appendix P, What Does it Mean to Be “Born Again”?*

Books:

- *From a Speck of Dust to a Son of God: Why Were Your Born?* (coming soon)
- *The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter
- *The Day Jesus the Christ Died* by Fred R. Coulter

Sermon Series: *Healing*

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