

**WCBC WORSHIP SERVICE - JANUARY 21, 2018**

**TOPIC:** BUILDING OURSELVES UP!

Sermon 1: *By Getting Saved!*

**TEXT:** John 3:1-9

**INTRO:** Getting saved first is the FOUNDATION for building ourselves up in the faith!

**I. THE NECESSITY FOR BEING BORN AGAIN: vv.3,7**

Note: In verse 7, Jesus emphasizes the importance of the new birth (or being born again) by the word "must!"

- "born again" = Greek term "anōthen," meaning, "born from above"
- 1. Because of man's spiritual blindness! - v.3 cf.12:37-40
- 2. Because of man's spiritual alienation - v.5 cf. Genesis 3

**II. THE NATURE OF BEING BORN AGAIN: vv.3-6**

Note: In verse 9, Nicodemus asked, "How can this be?"

Misconceptions Regarding Being Born Again

1. That all men are saved and are God's children, therefore, all men are born again - John 1:12 cf. John 8:44
2. That a person could be born again by getting baptized - Luke 23:39-43
3. That a person could be born again by becoming a church member - Luke 23:39-43
4. That a person could be born again by being good, i.e., being righteous and religious - Acts 10

Christ's Teaching Regarding Being Born Again

1. It is not a physical birth - vv.3-4 cf. 5-6
  - "water" (v.5)
2. It is a spiritual birth - vv.5-6 cf. 1:12-13

Note: Spiritual birth is by God's grace through faith in Jesus as our Saviour! Ephesians 2:8-9

The Process of Salvation

- A. Admit that you are a sinner! - Romans 3:23
- B. Repent of your sins before the Lord! - Acts 17:30

C. Receive the Lord Jesus into your heart as your personal Saviour! - John 1:12

**CONCLUSION:** "Born once, die twice.  
Born twice, die once!"

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**Bottomley's Wasted Life!**

One night, C.H. Aitken preached to a large audience in Bristol, England, from the text, "You must be born again." Horatio Bottomley, a fine brilliant young fellow, listened with undivided attention. He was deeply moved. At the close of the message, an invitation was given to the unsaved to publicly confess Christ and seek His mercy. Bottomley thought: "Not I. This is not for me. I'll run my own life." He did run his own life. He made a fortune. He became the people's hero. He was the champion of the rights of the common man. He exposed swindlers and vigorously prosecuted them.

When sixty three years old, Bottomley who had exposed the crimes of others, was himself found guilty of crime, and was sentenced to seven years in prison. Captain Prayer of the Church Army visited him in prison. He told Bottomley the story of his conversion. He said, "Years ago I was in Colson Hall in Bristol where C.H. Aitken preached on the text, 'You must be born again.' I was convinced of sin and of my need of the Saviour. I accepted Christ, and since that memorable time, Christ has been all and all to me!"

Bottomley thought deeply. Then he said, "I too heard that searching message. I felt my great need of the Saviour, but I rejected Him." Then he said remorsefully, "A life without God is a wasted life!" - Walter B. Knight

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**Verse For Today**

**"You must be born again!" - John 3:7**

**Food For Thought**

"If you are born once, you are born in the Devil's family; if you are born twice, you are born in God's family!" - Paul L. Tan

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