**April 30, 2017 “You Must Be Born Again” John 3:1-8**

**Ephesians 2: 1-10**

Whenever we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with unsaved people, we need to remember that we are speaking to them in a foreign language that is not comprehensible to them. To illustrate this, I will use the following example that has occurred to me. I have in the past wanted to learn Spanish, so I erroneously thought that if I merely listened to others speak Spanish I would be able to learn Spanish.

Following through with this train of thought, I would tune into Spanish speaking radio thinking that if I listened long enough with enough concentration of thought, I would be able learn Spanish. I found out this to be an erroneous learning process for the following reason; I had no idea of what the subject was that was being discussed. I could not comprehend the language without knowing the subject. I did not know if the price of eggs was being discussed or if the conversation was about the weather or if it were none of the above was true and people were discussing politics.

As Christians, we need to be aware of the fact that many of the words that are used in Christian circles are very foreign to most people. I especially think of what I call the “shun” words like: justification; sanctification; glorification; regeneration; exaltation and so on. In fact, I believe that in most Churches in the United State today, less than 10% of the people sitting in the pews would be able to give an accurate explanation of those words.

Perhaps this is true for two reasons: First, the words themselves are somewhat foreign to us since they are primarily used only in Christian settings. For example, I doubt that we will ever hear a discussion of sanctification on public radio or on a country music station or on a rock and roll station and perhaps even on most so called Christian radio stations. Secondly, the meaning of these words have a far deeper implication than the word itself. Take for example the word, sanctification. The word itself in its base interpretation means “to set apart as sacred”.

But when we speak about the sanctification of our lives, the meaning becomes nearly infinite. Are we speaking of our emotions? Are we speaking about our language whether we are home or at work? Are we speaking about our temper issues or are we speaking about our spiritual life with Christ? Or are we speaking about all of the above?

Nicodemus ran into the same problem we often do… what does this mean?

1. John 3:1-8
   1. John 3:1-2
      1. I am trying to figure out what you are?
      2. Just who are you?
   2. Jesus said
      1. “you must be born again”
         1. Now what in the world does that mean… Nicodemus must have thought
         2. John 3:4… how can this be?
         3. Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb?
         4. What are you talking about?
         5. Speak to me in a language I can understand
2. Ephesians 2:1-10
   1. Paul is facing a similar situation with the new believers in Ephesus
      1. Explains salvation in Ephesians 2:1-10 in three parts
         1. Ephesians 2:1-3… the past state of the Christian
         2. Ephesians 2:4-6… the present state of the Christian
         3. Ephesians 2:7-10… the future state of the Christian
   2. Note the six steps
      1. From sin
      2. By love
      3. Into life
      4. With purpose
      5. Though faith
      6. Unto good works
   3. Paul has just explained “you must be born again” in these verses Ephesians 2:1-10
   4. The past… Ephesians 2:1-3
      1. No clearer explanation of man’s sinful state in all the Bible
      2. What is sin?
         1. Not what you and I do but rather what we have not done
         2. John 16:8-9
         3. They did not believe in Me
            1. As their only Savior and only hope of salvation resulting in Eternal life
   5. The present… Ephesians 2:4-6
      1. Reason # 1
      2. Note contrast between Ephesians 2:4 and Ephesians 2:1
         1. “But God”
         2. “And you”
      3. Reason # 2
         1. God has intervened
         2. Why?
            1. Because of His great love
            2. Salvation is based on God’s love… nothing else
      4. Reason # 3
         1. “made us alive”
         2. To give us what a dead person needs the most… life
      5. Reason # 4
         1. Exaltation of the believer
            1. Ephesians 2:6… raised us up with Him and seated us in the heavenly places
            2. Note the present state of the believer
            3. In God’s mind… it is done… finished
      6. Reason # 5… the future Ephesians 2:7-10
         1. Purpose
            1. Ephesians 2:8… “in the ages to come”
            2. We are not saved primarily from hell
            3. But we are saved for the Glory of God!!!!
            4. Throughout all the ages to come
      7. Reason # 6… Ephesians 2:8-9
         1. Into a life of faith
            1. Faith is so difficult

Really?

How many people live by faith?

Building is going to fall on your head?

Bridge you drove over was going to hold you?

When you stepped on the brake pedal you were going to stop?

When you drank your coffee before church did you check what was in it?

When we eat lunch how many believe the food will not kill you?

1. Result
   1. Ephesians 2:10
      1. Saved unto good works
   2. Note
      1. “we are”
      2. Right now
      3. No excuses
         1. Well you don’t know my past
         2. We you don’t know mine either
      4. “we are”
         1. Present tense… “are”
      5. “we”
         1. Children… to older adults
         2. You and I have a purpose in this life
2. He will pick you up just where you are today
3. He will dust you off
4. He will place your feet on the Rock
5. He will live His life through you

Why? Because you have been “born again” for His glory!!!!!!! And don’t you ever forget it

Thanks to Calvary

Just as I am