

SERMON OUTLINE

'Gospel Words'

Study - 1

'Regeneration'

John 3 v1 - 21

There are 5 key gospel words which help us to understand what the Christian gospel is all about:-

Regeneration, Justification, Redemption, Propitiation, Reconciliation

Key Verse in thinking about regeneration - Titus 3 v5. Regeneration means - 'a new beginning'.

Key Passage in thinking about regeneration - John 3 v1 - 31. Regeneration is pictured here as a new birth. This new birth is not about being born again, physically. See - v4. It's about being born again, spiritually. See - 1 v13b.

Key Question - Are we once born or twice born?

1. THE NECESSITY OF THE NEW BIRTH

This is a seriously important matter. See - v3a (lit) - "amen, amen, I say to you." We need to be born again in order to enter into the kingdom of God. See - v3.

A. THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF THE NEW BIRTH

Notice that Jesus doesn't say that we 'should' be born again - but that we 'must' be born again. See - v7. Why? The answer is that the kingdom of God is a spiritual kingdom, which means that we need to be spiritually people in order to enter it. The bad news in this is that by nature we are all spiritually dead. Key Verse - Eph 2 v1. This is why we need to be born again!

B. THE UNIVERSAL NECESSITY OF THE NEW BIRTH

See - v3b - "no-one....." Note - There is no such thing as a born again Christian! If you are a Christian then you are born again - and if you are not born again then you are not a Christian.

John records this conversion with Nicodemus because if ever there was a man who we might have said that he didn't need to be born again, then it would be him. He was respectable and religious - we might say that he was a good, moral, church going man. See - v1. Even so - he needed to be born again.

2. THE NATURE OF THE NEW BIRTH

A. THE ORIGIN OF IT

"Born again" - (lit) - "born from above". In other words, this is something which God does. And of course He has to do it if we are dead in sin. See - 1 v13 - "born of God". Also - Titus 3 v5

B. THE MEANS OF IT

See - v5 - 6. The "water" here is a reference to cleansing. See - Eph 5 v6. This new birth takes place as the Spirit of God works in the heart of the sinner through the Word of God, bringing faith to life. See - 1 v12 - 13.

This is not only miraculous - it's mysterious. See - v8.

C. THE EVIDENCE OF IT

See - 1 John. Repeated use of the phrase - "born of God".

The Doctrinal Test - Believing in the Son of God
1 Jn 5 v1a

The Moral Test - Obeying the Word of God
1 Jn 5 v3 - 4a

The Social Test - Loving the People of God
1 Jn 4 v7a