**Rumination 989\_07 January, 2024**

The **T**heme:**The New Birth**

The **T**ext: *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is* ***born again*** *he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* Jn. 6:44

The **T**hots:

Intro. As we tread into the first week of the New Year, let us remind ourselves of our need of the New Birth.

1. **The Necessity of the New Birth.**

It is **C**onditional for…

1. **A**doption into the Family of God is Spiritual. Jn. 1:12

*But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God*

1. The Feder**al** Man was **D**isobedient. Rom. 5:18, 19

*Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men…by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners,*

1. The Universal Man is Dead – *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned* Rom. 5:12
2. The Natural Man brings Displeasure – *Those who are in the flesh cannot please God*. Rom. 8:5-8
3. Acceptance into the Kingdom of God is Spiritual. Rom. 3:5, 7

*Our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say*?

1. His Kingdom is not of the World. Jn. 18:36

*My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.*

1. His Kingdom is Heavenly. II Tim. 4:18

*The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom.*

1. His Kingdom is only for those who are Christ’s. I Cor. 15:50; Col. 1:13, 14

*…flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable*

1. Enjoyment of God is Spiritual – *That which is born of the flesh is flesh,*

 *and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit* Jn. 3:6, 7

1. A New Nature is required, cp. The pig.
2. A New Means is required, cp. The Tadpole.
3. A New Life is required, cp. The Caterpillar.
4.
5. **The Nature of the New Birth.**
6. It is a New Experience – *born again*
7. Not a Visible Birth – *How can a man be born when he is old?* Jn. 3:4
8. Not Physical Rebirth. (ct. reincarnation) –

*Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”* Jn. 3:4

1. But Spiritual Birth – *The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”* Jn. 3:8
2. It is a Person**al** Experience.
3. It is an Individu**al** Experience.
4. It is an Effectu**al** Experience.
5. It is a New Creation – born again*; if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation* II Cor. 5:17
6. The **C**ondition for a New Creation – *in Christ*
7. The **C**onsequences of the New Creation – *old things are passed away*
8. The **C**oncept of the New Creation – *old things are become new.*
9. **A**ttitudes towards **A**ll things take on new **D**imensions. 5:17
10. **A**ppreciate all things that are Divine. 5:18
11. It has a **N**ew Origin – *born from above.*
12. **P**lanned by **G**od in **G**race.
13. **P**roclaimed by Christ in the **G**ospel. Jn. 1:17, 18; 5:24
14. The **F**aith **D**emanded – *hear and believe.*
15. The **F**act **D**eclared –
* Negative**ly** – *shall not come into judgment*
* Positive**ly** – *pass from death unto life*
* Affirmative**ly** – *has everlasting life.*
1. **The Nobility of the New Birth.**
2. Born of God – The **R**ight of the new Birth. Jn. 1:12, 13
3. Born of the Spirit – The **R**evelation of the New Birth Jn. 3:3
4. Born of the Word – The **R**eliabilty of the New Birth. I Pet. 1:23

*A ruler once came to Jesus by night To ask Him the way of sal­va­tion and light;*

*The Mas­ter made an­swer in words true and plain, Ye must be born again.*

*Ye must be born again, Ye must be born again,*

*I verily, verily, say unto thee, Ye must be born again.* [Will­iam T. Sleep­er](http://www.hymntime.com/tch/bio/s/l/e/e/sleeper_wt.htm),

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 989**

1. It is **M**ind-boggling that in **M**any **M**ega and **M**odern Churches today the **M**essage of the New Birth is as ever-needed as ever. In its place has been substituted a **M**essage without the need for repentance and conviction of sin, a **M**essage of Love for all **M**ankind with great **M**usic to Boot – it is pure **E**ntertainment without the **E**vangelical Message of the Gospel - the **N**eed for a **N**ew Birth.

It is no wonder therefore to hear of the Lord’s **C**omplaint of His Last Day’s Message to the **C**hurch at Laodicea as recorded in **Rev. 3:14-22**

**C**onsider:

1. The **C**haracter of the **C**hrist-Person Who Spoke: Rev. 3:14

 *‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation.*

1. The **C**ondition of the **C**hurch: Rev. 3:15, 16

 *‘I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot!*

 *So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.*

1. The **C**laim of the **C**hurch: Rev. 3:17a

 *For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.* Rev. 3:17b

 *not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked* Rev. 3:17b

1. The **C**ounsel of **C**hrist to the **C**hurch Rev. 3:18

*I* ***C****ounsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may* ***C****lothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.*

1. The **C**ommitment to the individual **C**hristian: Rev. 3:19

*Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.*

*Behold,* ***I stand at the door and knock****. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door,*

*I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me.* Rev. 3:20

**Note**:

At this Stage, Jesus is no more **IN** the **C**hurch. He is outside, appealing to the Individual **C**hristian and not to the **C**orporate **C**hurch – they have driven Him out of the Church!

You may be in the **C**hurch, but is **C**hrist in your **C**hurch? **REFLECT**.

1. In stark contrast, when the Lord of the Churches addressed the Church at Philadelphia, a seemingly small faithful church, there was not even a word of **C**riticism or **C**ondemnation from the Lord – the **C**hurch was fully **C**ommended, as can be detected in this shortest of seven letters to the churches in Asia, as follows: **Rev. 3:8-13**
2. **The Character of Christ:** Rev. 3:7

*The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David,*

*who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.*

1. The **C**ommendation of the Church: *I know your works…* Rev. 3:8

*Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept My word and have not denied My name…*

*Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth*. 1

1. The Lord is **C**oming Soon*: I am* ***C****oming soon.* Rev.3:11
2. The **C**rowning Day is **C**oming: *Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your* ***C****rown. 12 The one who* ***C****onquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the* ***C****ity of my God, the new Jerusalem, which* ***C****omes down from my God out of heaven, and My own new name.*
3. *13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the* ***C****hurches.’*

**Points To Ponder:** Be Born Once, and you will Die Twice (Rev. 20:6); Be Born Twice (Again), and you will Die Once. (Heb. 9:27)