

What The Bible Says About ---

Wednesday, August 26, 2015

Part Eight

The Great Doctrines Of Salvation

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REGENERATION

Last week we studied:

CONVERSION – Mankind calls upon God to turn him around and change his life. This begins with repentance.

JUSTIFICATION – This is the reversal of God’s attitude toward the sinner because of the sinner’s new relationship with Christ. It’s JUST-AS-IF-I’D never sinned in the first place.

Now tonight we take up REGENERATION – which is the communication of divine life to the soul - the impartation of a new nature or heart.

1 John 5:11-13

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. [12] He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. [13] These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

THE NECESSITY OF REGENERATION

Eternal salvation is not

- making some vow
- emotion such as weeping or laughter
- doing penance
- making a “decision”

Scriptures emphatically declare that a person must be REGENERATED before he can see God – a supernatural infusion of divine life within a person.

– Without holiness no person may see God. Hebrews 12:14 **Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:** Yet humanity is by nature depraved and guilty of actual transgression against God.

– This moral change can be brought about only by an act of God – HE REGENERATES

1 THE HEART. This is that “new birth” Jesus taught to Nicodemus. John 3:3 **Jesus**
2 **answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born**
3 **again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**
4

5 John 1:12 **But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons**
6 **of God, even to them that believe on his name:**
7

Only the divine impartation of Christ’s life can produce that holy nature within us sinners that makes fellowship with God possible. (There is such a thing as the growth of a child - but no such thing as growing into a child. There has to be birth to be a child.)

8 HOW IS SUCH A THING AS REGENERATION POSSIBLE? 9

10 1. It is the will of God. James 1:18 **Of his own will begat he us with the word of**
11 **truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.** God wants your nature
12 to be changed. He wants you to have divine life of Jesus within you.
13

14 2. It is made possible by the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. The new birth is
15 conditioned on faith in the crucified Christ. John 3:14-15 **And as Moses lifted up the**
16 **serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: [15] That**
17 **whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.**
18

19 Here is the Old Testament background for that story: Numbers 21:4-9 **And they**
journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of
Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. [5]
And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye
brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither
is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. [6] And the Lord sent
fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of
Israel died.

[7] Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have
spoken against the Lord, and against thee; pray unto the Lord, that he take away
the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. [8] And the Lord said
unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to
pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. [9] And
Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if
a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

1 Regeneration is also predicated on our belief in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead:
2 1 Peter 1:3 **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which**
3 **according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the**
4 **resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

5
6 3. Regeneration is also brought about by the Word of God. Ephes. 5:26 **That he**
7 **might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word....**

8 There is such power in God's Word! Yet many followers of Jesus rarely if ever
9 "plug into" the power source for charging of their spiritual batteries.

10
11 4. God uses ministers of the Word, teaching and preaching, to bring about regeneration.
12 1 Cor. 4:15 **For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not**
13 **many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.**

14
15 5. Regeneration comes about through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5 **Not**
16 **by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved**
17 **us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;**

18 EVIDENCES OF A REGENERATED LIFE

19
20
21 You can readily tell if you are spiritually regenerated or not:

22
23 1. He that is born of God overcomes temptation.

24 1 John 3:9 **Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth**
25 **in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.** What does that mean? It is
26 perhaps better understood in the Message: 1 John 3:9 **People conceived and brought**
27 **into life by God don't make a practice of sin. How could they? God's seed is deep**
28 **within them, making them who they are. It's not in the nature of the God-begotten**
29 **to practice and parade sin.**

30 1 John 5:4 **For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the**
31 **victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**

32 1 John 5:18 **We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is**
33 **begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.**

34
35 2. A regenerated person habitually loves "the brethren."

36 1 John 4:20 **If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that**
37 **loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not**
38 **seen?**

39
40 3. A regenerated person sees the lost world as God does.

1 2 Cor. 5:14 **For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if**
2 **one died for all, then were all dead:**

3 A REGENERATED PERSON LOVES MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM.

4
5 THE CONSEQUENCES OF A REGENERATED LIFE

6
7 1. Union with Christ at the new birth means nothing can separate you from the love of
8 God except your own will.

9 Romans 8:38-39 **For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor**
10 **principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, [39] Nor height,**
11 **nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God,**
12 **which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

13
14 2. Your union with Christ will produce fruitfulness in you.

15 John 15:5 **I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him,**
16 **the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.**

17
18 What is this fruit? Galatians 5:22-23 **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,**
19 **longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance:**

20
21 3. Union with Christ means endowment for service. We understand God's
22 expectations from us in light of the coming judgment Seat of Christ. I Cor. 3

23
24 SANCTIFICATION

25
26 So far we have studied:

27
28 1. Conversion – Man calls upon God to turn him or her around and change that life.
29 This requires repentance and faith.

30
31 2. Justification - this is the reversal of God's attitude toward the sinner because of the
32 sinner's new relationship with God.

33
34 3. Regeneration is the impartation of a new nature and heart.

35

SANCTIFICATION – is the separation to God, the purification from moral evil and the
conformation to the image of Christ.

1 Hebrews 12:1-16

2 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses,
3 let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run
4 with patience the race that is set before us, [2] Looking unto Jesus the author and
5 finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,
6 despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. [3] For
7 consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be
8 wearied and faint in your minds. [4] Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving
9 against sin. [5] And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as
10 unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when
11 thou art rebuked of him: [6] For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and
12 scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. [7] If ye endure chastening, God dealeth
13 with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? [8] But if
14 ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not
15 sons. [9] Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we
16 gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of
17 spirits, and live? [10] For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own
18 pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. [11] Now
19 no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless
20 afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are
21 exercised thereby. [12] Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble
22 knees; [13] And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned
23 out of the way; but let it rather be healed. [14] Follow peace with all men, and
24 holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: [15] Looking diligently lest any
25 man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you,
26 and thereby many be defiled; [16] Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person,
27 as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

28
29 Sanctification means:

30
31 1. Not only separation unto God but separation FROM defilement.

32
33 Today there is too often among professing followers of Christ a knee jerk reaction to
34 legalism by a compromising with the world system. God expects His people to be
35 morally clean.

36
37 When King Hezekiah became the monarch of Israel, he instituted a high standard of
38 morality: 2 Chron. 29:4-6 And he brought in the priests and the Levites, and
39 gathered them together into the east street, [5] And said unto them, Hear me, ye
40 Levites, sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the Lord God of your

1 **fathers, and carry forth the filthiness out of the holy place. [6] For our fathers have**
2 **trespassed, and done that which was evil in the eyes of the Lord our God, and have**
3 **forsaken him, and have turned away their faces from the habitation of the Lord, and**
4 **turned their backs.**

5
6 This is a New Testament teaching, too:

7
8 **2 Cor. 6:14-18 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what**
9 **fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath**
10 **light with darkness? [15] And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part**
11 **hath he that believeth with an infidel? [16] And what agreement hath the temple of**
12 **God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will**
13 **dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my**
14 **people. [17] Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the**
15 **Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, [18] And will be a**
16 **Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.**

17
18 Note carefully Paul's wrap-up of this truth in the next chapter: 2 Cor. 7:1 **Having**
19 **therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness**
20 **of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**

21
22 Note the phrase "filthiness of the flesh." What is that? We have it carefully delineated
23 in Galatians 5:19-20: **Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these;**
24 **Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, [20] Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred,**
25 **variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, [21] Envyings, murders,**
26 **drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also**
27 **told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of**
28 **God.**

29
30 **SENSUAL SINS:** 1. Adultery 2. Fornication 3. Uncleanness of the mind and
31 spirit 4. Lasciviousness (brutality and sadism)

32
33 **RELIGIOUS SINS:** 5. Idolatry (anything between you and God) 6. Witchcraft
34 (comes from Pharmakeia or pharmacy - illegal drugs) 7. Hatred or enmity 8.
35 Variances - contentions or quarrels

36
37 **SOCIAL SINS:** 9. Emulations (rivalry-jealousy) 10. Wrath - a hot temper 11.
38 Strife - factions or cliques 12. Seditions - divisions 13. Heresies 14. Envyings
39 15. Murders

1 PERSONAL SINS: 17. Drunkenness 17. Revelings - wantonness Then Paul
2 adds: "...and such like" - meaning there are many others.

3
4 Now....on the positive side we are to be conformed to Christ. Here are the earmarks of
5 that conformation: Galatians 5:22-23 **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,**
6 **longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance:**

7
8 One might protest, "But - I cannot live like that!" That person must remember
9 REGENERATION (Christ's life in us). Paul reinforced this glorious truth: 2 Cor. 3:18
10 **But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed**
11 **into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.**

12
13 How does this Sanctification happen? And when?

14
15 1. First....it happens immediately when you are converted. This is called
16 POSITIONAL SANCTIFICATION.

17 The scriptures teach that the moment a person believes on Christ he is sanctified -
18 made holy. Not on our own merit, but we are clothed with the sanctity of Jesus.

19
20 2. But sanctification also continues and progresses through life. Romans 8:13 **For**
21 **if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds**
22 **of the body, ye shall live.**

23
24 This does not indicate "sinless perfection." So POSITIONALLY we are perfect the day
25 we believe in Christ but EXPERIENTIALLY we are continuing to "grow in Christ."

26
27 Note: If 'sinless perfection' is an unscriptural doctrine, which it is, then so is 'sinful
28 imperfection.' Romans 6:1-2 **What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin,**
29 **that grace may abound? [2] God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any**
30 **longer therein?**

31
32 From the great evangelist of yesteryear, Charles G. Finney: *He who does not habitually*
33 *overcome the world is not born of God. In saying this, I do not intend to affirm that a*
34 *true Christian may not sometimes be overcome by sin; but I do affirm that overcoming*
35 *the world is the general rule, and falling into sin is only the exception.* Now Finney
36 rebukes those who hold they must go on sinning. *Many indulge in the very opposite*
37 *expectation. Far from expecting any such thing as the apostle authorizes them to*
38 *expect, they know they have no such expectation. How perfectly chilling and horrible*
39 *for persons to oppose the idea of expecting deliverance from sin and yet talk calmly of*
40 *going on in sin all the rest of their earthly lives.*

- 1 3. Complete and Final sanctification will occur at the Rapture.
2 • The body will be glorified
3 • That which is imperfect will be done away
4

5 The Means of Sanctification (How?)
6

- 7 1. Pursue holiness (Just as a baby or child grows physically, being cared for,
8 nourished, attended, so the new-born child of God begins a regimen of spiritual growth.)
9 2. A total surrender of life to God
10 3. A daily search of the scriptures
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15 NEXT WEEK: We study RECONCILIATION, one of the greatest truths in all the Word
16 of God.
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