

Born Again

- I will be teaching today from the bible.
- The bible is the only real truth.
- Scripture is the inspired word of God.
- *What does it say about us.*
- God created heaven and earth – the physical universe.
- It was created as a gift to Jesus- we are a gift to Him.
- We are created beings.

Born Again

- We are created three in one
- We are made up of three parts, namely spirit, soul and body.
- We are NOT our body. We just live in it while we are on the earth.
- We are a spirit being living in a body , with a soul.

Born Again

- Our soul consists of our mind, will and emotions.
- Our mind is not our brain. It is not physical. It is that part that thinks.
- We decide what to do, - with our will.
- And we feel things, - emotionally.
- Our body wears out or we become sick and our body dies.
- Our spirit and soul does not die. They are eternal.

Born again

- Our natural state, the state in which we are born is spiritually dead .The body is alive. We are not our body.
- When we are spiritually dead we are separated from God.
- Someone who is spiritually dead is not saved.
- To know God we must be spiritually alive.
- Our spirit must be resurrected.

Born Again

- *Before we are born again, that is before we are spiritually alive*
- We are a natural man (or woman).
- We think and live naturally.
- The natural man rejects the idea of God entirely or prefers the substitute of religion .
- The natural man is in charge of his life. He is a little god and rejects the idea that his creator wants to be in charge.
- We lack understanding of why we are here.
- It is impossible for a natural man (or woman) to understand the things of God.
- That is why the things of God are just religious mumbo jumbo to them. The natural man resists the things of God.

Born again

- So we have to become spiritually alive to communicate with God and to understand.
- *Let us look now at what Born Again is NOT*
- Born again is not a denomination.
- It's not a cult.
- We are NOT born again when we are baptised as a baby, - because being born again is by personal decision.

Born Again

- We are not born again by confirmation.
- We are NOT born again by following church rituals, traditions or customs.
- OK – what is it then?
- Being born again is a change of state. It is being in a personal relationship with a living God.
- How we attain that relationship we will learn later.

Born Again

- *You may say – surely if I'm a good person God will let me into His kingdom?*
- Question -can we be born again by being good people or by doing good works, and by so doing become acceptable to God.
- **The answer is NO**

Born Again

- So what's the problem and what's the solution.
- What's is this life all about.
- It is about Salvation or being saved. It's about having the absolute assurance that when we die we go to heaven.
- *How do we get saved. Firstly let us look at what it's NOT about -*
- It's not about just believing in God, and hoping that somehow He will allow us into heaven.
- It's not about being baptised as a baby.
- It's not about good works, being a good person.
- It's not about going to church. The church can't save you.
- It's not about engaging in tradition or religious ritual.

Born Again

- God created us so that we could have an eternal relationship with Him.
- Until we are born again we are rejecting God.
- In fact scripture says that until we are born again we are children of the devil.
- Jesus said **“Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.”**
Mathew 12:30

Born Again

- How do we get born again
- It is all about Jesus and the cross.
- .. But firstly – Who is Jesus.
- God is the three in one. God the Father, God the son and God the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus is the first begotten son of God. He was not created like us.
- He is divine.

Born Again

- *What more does scripture say?*
- When the disciple Thomas said to Jesus “how can we know the way?” – **“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6**
- Note what He said there. Through ME – not through the church or by our own good works, or by any religion that rejects Jesus as the way.

Born Again

- *What did He do?*
- He left heaven and came to earth and was born as a man. He relied totally on God the Father and God the Holy Spirit for his powers.
- He allowed Himself to be scourged and crucified for us. **“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16**

Born Again

- ***By His death on the cross Jesus was punished for our sins and for our rejection of God, He died in our place.***
- God invites you to make your response to this – He won't force you, it's your free will choice.
- Your decision will have eternal consequences for you. Whilst you are alive on this earth you still have a choice. Eternal is ever lasting – no second chance – no turning back.
- If you refuse God's invitation - you are called an unbeliever.

Born Again

- When Jesus chose to die on the cross it was a substitute sacrifice
- We are saved if we accept that Jesus died in our place. There is nothing we can do but accept, and invite Him to be in charge of our life. What WE want is no longer important – it's what He wants that counts.
- *Salvation is a free gift to those who don't deserve it – that is the GRACE of God.*
- In the book of Ephesians chapter 2 verse 8 it says : **For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-**
- Then in verse 9: **not by works, so that no one can boast.**
- And finally verse 10 : **For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

Born again

- Looking back to verse 8 it says we are born again by FAITH
- *What is Faith?*
- Here's the bible definition.
- **Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.** Hebrews 11:1 .
- Faith is confidently trusting in and relying upon the fact that Jesus paid a price we cannot pay. He did it for us. We just have to accept that He is the one that makes us acceptable to God and NOT we ourselves.

Born again

- Now listen - If you are Born again – you know it.
- If not then you need to pray this simple prayer.
- Lord Jesus, I believe that you were punished and died on the cross in my place. Please forgive all my sins. I accept you as my Lord and saviour and I ask you to take charge of my life. I now surrender my will to do your will. Thank you Lord because now I am saved.

Born Again

- If you prayed that simple prayer from a sincere heart you are now born again.
- You are complete in Him.
- You still live in your old body which breaks down.
- One day we will receive a new body which is incorruptible.
- You still have your soul and you become responsible for the renewing of your mind so that your thinking aligns with God.

Born Again

- *What happens now?*
- Ask God to direct you to a church where the folk are born again. (Not all churches calling themselves Christian are Christian – even though they think they are –they may be sincere people - just subject bad teaching and doctrine – that means they are not saved –they just have RELIGION).
- Many Christian churches violate scripture.
- Infant baptism doesn't count towards salvation. Find a church that practices baptism by total immersion and get baptised. Why?
- Because you need to make a public declaration that you have died to your old life and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

Born Again

- *What should you avoid?*
- avoid religious people.
- avoid places where Jesus is not central.
- It's not about ritual or tradition.
- Avoid churches that pray to or venerate persons other than Jesus (that's idolatry).

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- You are now a new creation, spiritually alive, complete in Him.
- The righteousness of Jesus is imputed to you.
- God adores you and sees you as perfect.
- BUT you are a baby Christian and need to be taught how to live a victorious Christian life.
- Live righteously and stop doing what you now understand to be sinful.
- Ask the Holy spirit to teach you.

Born Again

- Now Jesus promises abundant life, he says
- ***The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. ... John 10:10*** (that's abundant life now followed by eternal life)
- ***.. I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life.. Deuteronomy 30:19.***
- How do we choose life?
- Simply by being obedient to the will of God as revealed in the bible. Surrender your will to Him.

Born again

- What is abundant life.
- God promises peace, health, joy, sufficient money for your needs, eternal life and much much more.
- Jesus says that in this life you will have troubles – but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world. He has defeated the devil and all his works – so you have the potential to overcome every challenge through Jesus.

Born Again

- *He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. Daniel 7:14.*
- *Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— John 1:12*
- Now you are a son (or daughter) of the living God – that's awesome!!!

Born Again

- God created you for a life of good works which He has already prepared for you to do.
- Let me give you a few scriptures which will help you understand.
- *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20*
- *And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 2 Cor 5:15*

Born Again

- Now the really exciting bit!!
- *....they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.” Mark 16:18*
- and verse 20 says *“Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.”*
- *YOU too are a disciple – you too can do this, in fact it is normal and expected. Wherever you see evidence of sickness or anything that manifests from the kingdom of darkness, you can approach (sensitively) and get rid of it. JUST BELIEVE.*

Born Again

- Welcome to the kingdom of God !!!!
- Remember Jesus is Lord for ever and ever. He has overcome the world .
- You have been made alive by His spirit.
- You are a new creation – a new species of man (or woman).
- In many ways you may still feel the same BUT hang about –God hasn't finished with you yet!!

Born Again

- In conclusion
- When I die I am going to heaven – (unless Jesus comes again before I die – in that case I will go straight to heaven in the rapture).
- I would love to meet with you in heaven.
- Will you accept God's free gift invitation.
- Have an open mind.
- Jesus is the truth - can you handle it?