

# Born Again

John 3

Born Again    Introduction

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- Today's chapter is arguably one of the most important in the entire Bible.
- Every follower of Jesus needs to be familiar with it and come to grips with its contents.

# Born Again    Introduction

- Jesus explains to a respected religious leader that the basic need of all people is to be **born again**.
- Spiritual rebirth is the basic difference between Christ's real followers or disciples and everyone else.

# Born Again    Introduction

- The prophet Ezekiel foretold a day when God would radically change the hearts of his people.
- We can describe this as a new birth, regeneration, new life, or the receiving of a completely new heart.

# Born Again Introduction

## Ezekiel 36:25-27 (ESV)

<sup>25</sup> I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. <sup>26</sup> And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

# Born Again    Introduction

- We need more than a new outlook on life.
- We need a new heart.
- We need to be transformed from the inside to be made fit for the kingdom of God.

# Born Again    Introduction

*For entry to this kingdom, racial inheritance, circumcision, energetic law-keeping, acts of piety or scriptural knowledge, avail nothing. What is needed is the receiving of a new spiritual life from God through personal faith in Jesus himself as the one who had come from God, and was to be lifted up as the object of faith.*

*– Bruce Milne*



# Born Again    Introduction

- No one has ever said it better than Jesus did in **John 3:7**.

You must be born again.

# The Work of the Spirit    John 3:1-8

# The Work of the Spirit    John 3:1-8

- **3:1** Nicodemus was a **Pharisee**. Like Paul, he came from this conservative branch of Judaism.
- He was also a **ruler**, that is, a member of the Sanhedrin, the ruling council of the Jews.

# The Work of the Spirit    John 3:1-8

- 3:2    A teacher come from God
- Nicodemus probably means this as a compliment.
- If Jesus were merely a young rabbi with great potential, he would have been flattered.
- But Jesus is so much more.

# The Work of the Spirit    John 3:1-8

- 3:3    Unless one is born again ...
- 3:7    You must be born again.
- Jesus is emphatic. We do not need a teacher. We need to receive new life.

# The Work of the Spirit    John 3:1-8

- 3:5    water and the Spirit
- 3:6    born of the flesh ... born of the Spirit
- All of us have experienced a natural birth.
- We need to experience a spiritual rebirth.

# The Work of the Spirit    John 3:1-8



*The new birth is like the wind (3:8). We can hear the sound the wind makes and see the wind's effects, but we cannot say where it has come from. In the same way, God mysteriously brings about the new birth. We do not know how he does it, but when it has taken place, we can see its effects.*

*– Samuel Ngewa,  
Africa International University*

# The Work of the Spirit    John 3:1-8

- The Spirit is the one who gives us new life.
- The Son did the work that makes new life available to us.

# The Work of the Son    John 3:9-15

# The Work of the Son    John 3:9-15

- Jesus points out the radical difference between earthly teachers such as Nicodemus and himself.
- No religious teacher can compare to Jesus, **the Son of Man**, who actually came from heaven.

# The Work of the Son    John 3:9-15

- The bottom line is that we do not need a teacher.
- We need a Savior – someone who can save us from our sins.

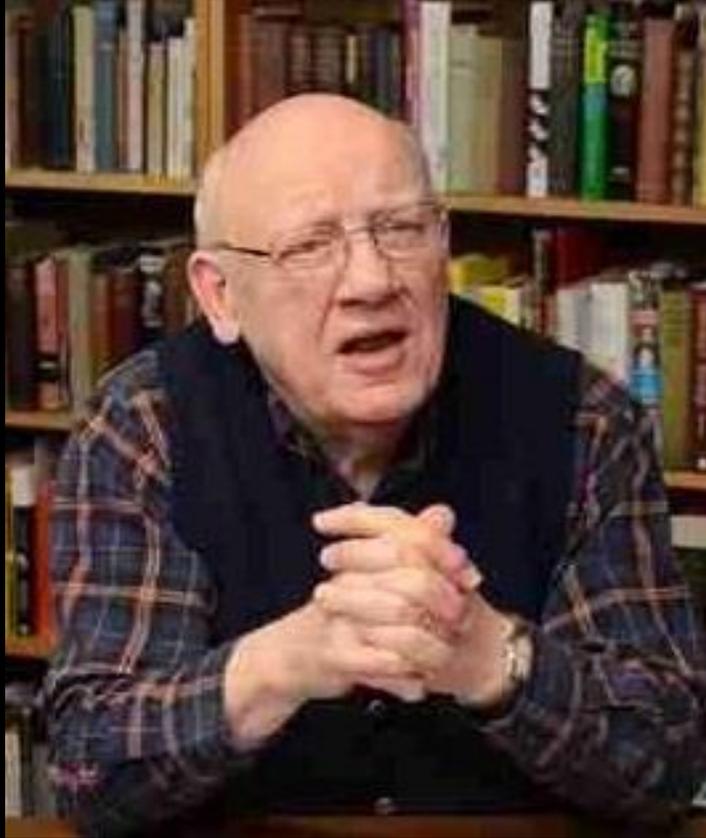
# The Work of the Son    John 3:9-15

- Jesus compares the situation to a time (**Numbers 21**) when the Israelites were afflicted by poisonous snakes.
- Many were being bitten and there seemed to be no solution.

# The Work of the Son     John 3:9-15

- God instructed **Moses** to make a **bronze serpent** and put it on a pole and have the Israelites look to it in faith to be healed.
- It was literally a matter of life and death.

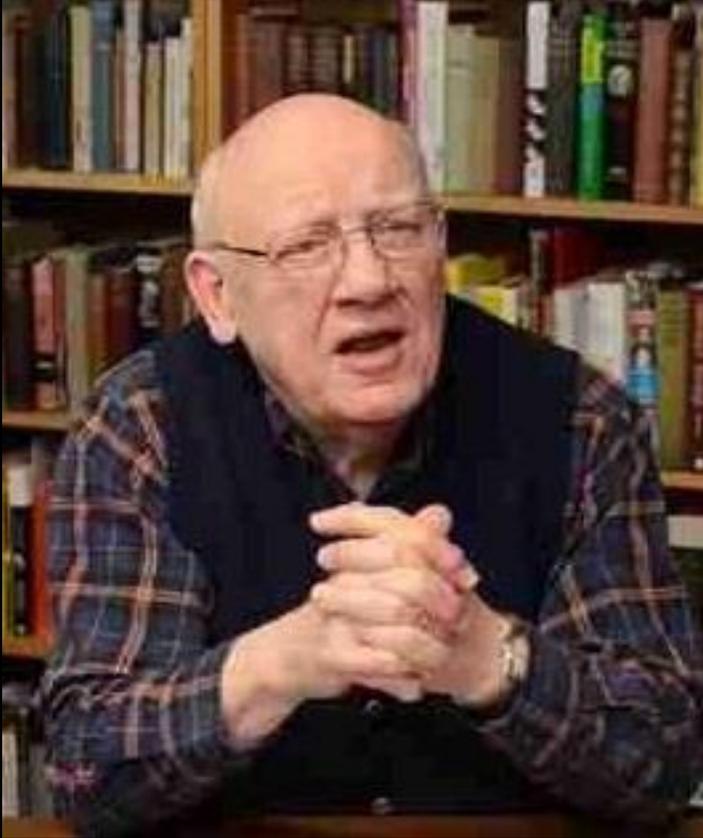
# The Work of the Son    John 3:9-15



*Much as the serpent was lifted up on that pole, so the Son of God would be lifted up on a cross. Why? To save us from sin and death.*

*– Warren Wiersbe*

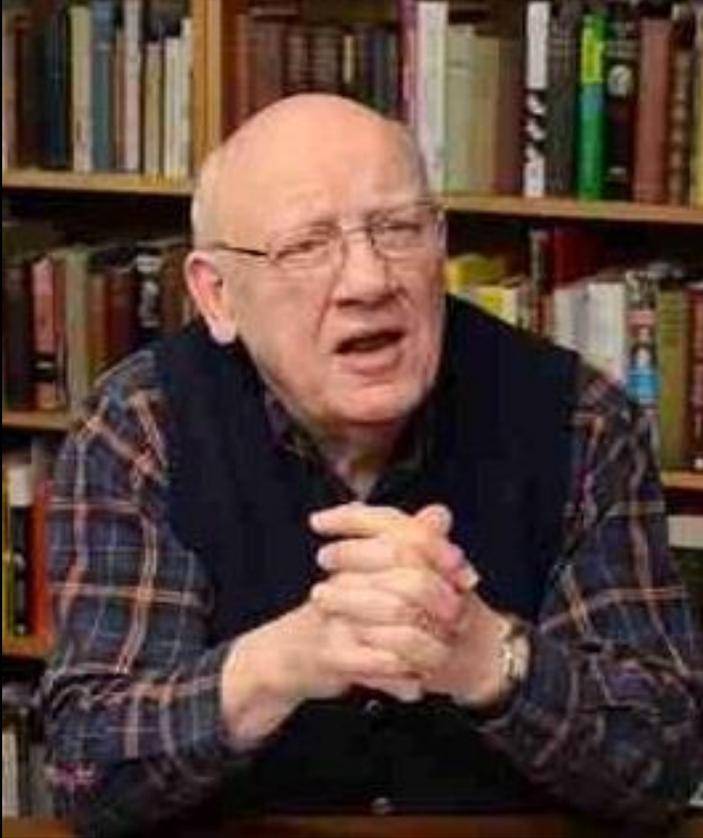
# The Work of the Son    John 3:9-15



*In the camp of Israel, the solution to the “serpent problem” was not in killing the serpents, making medicine, pretending they were not there, passing antiserpent laws, or climbing the pole. The answer was in looking by faith at the uplifted serpent.*

*– Warren Wiersbe*

# The Work of the Son    John 3:9-15



*The whole world has been bitten by sin, and “the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23). God sent His Son to die, not only for Israel, but for a whole world. How is a person born from above? How is he or she saved from eternal perishing? By believing on Jesus Christ; by looking to Him in faith.*

*– Warren Wiersbe*

# The Work of the Son     John 3:9-15

- Jesus Christ went to the cross to save us from sin and death.
- He did it willingly, but it was not solely on his own initiative.
- He was personally sent by God the Father.

# The Work of God the Father **John 3:16-21**

# The Work of God the Father    John 3:16-21

*As the new birth, the acquisition of eternal life, has been grounded in the 'lifting up' of the Son (vv. 14–15), so also that 'lifting up', the climax of the Son's mission, is itself grounded in the love of God.*

– D. A. Carson



# The Work of God the Father **John 3:16-21**

- **3:16-18** To understand the God's love for us it is essential to also understand the seriousness of sin.
- We have to admit that our situation is serious enough that without Jesus we will surely perish.

# The Work of God the Father **John 3:16-21**

- **3:16-18** We needed a Savior to rescue us from sin and death. That's what we have in Jesus Christ.
- Without grasping that, the love of God in sending Christ to die on the cross will never make sense.

# The Work of God the Father **John 3:16-21**

**Romans 5:8** (ESV)

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

# The Work of God the Father    John 3:16-21

## 1 John 4:9-10 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

<sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

# The Work of God the Father **John 3:16-21**

- **3:19-21** Without Jesus, we all walk in darkness.
- When we open our lives to God's heart-piercing analysis, it may hurt, but we will see our real need.

# The Work of God the Father **John 3:16-21**

- **3:19-21** This allows us to **come to the light** and trust Christ's perfect work rather than our own imperfect works.
- If we refuse to acknowledge our sin before God, we will never see our need for Jesus.

Born Again

Conclusions

# Born Again      Conclusions

- In **John 7:45-53**, Nicodemus stood up for Jesus when the Sanhedrin condemned him without a fair hearing.
- In **John 19:38-42**, Nicodemus Joined Joseph of Arimathea in preparing the body of Jesus for burial.

# Born Again      Conclusions

- Nicodemus probably experienced the new birth for himself.
- He grew from an inquirer into a supporter into a follower of Jesus Christ.
- He chose to no longer walk in darkness.

# Born Again    Conclusions

*Regeneration also makes clear the radical difference between Christians and non-Christians. We are either one or the other, born again, or dead in sins; we have come to the light, or are still in darkness; we are saved from condemnation, or under condemnation. There is no middle ground.*

*– Bruce Milne*

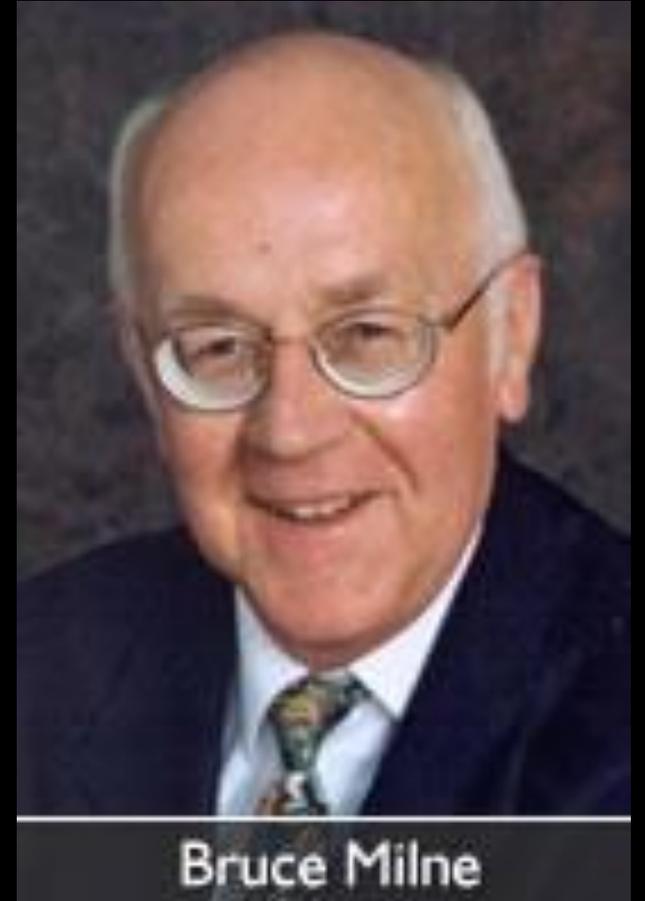


Bruce Milne

# Born Again    Conclusions

*We may not necessarily recall the details of our regeneration. That is not the primary issue, which is that we are now living in constant dependence on Jesus Christ as our living Lord and Saviour and growing in our spiritual life, which is God's ever-renewed gift.*

*– Bruce Milne*



# Born Again    Conclusions

- No one has ever said it better than Jesus did in **John 3:7**.

You must be born again.