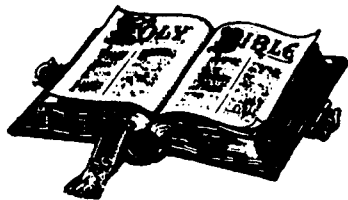


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16*

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## **"BORN OF WATER" — SOME QUESTIONS**

In John 3:5 Jesus declared: ". . . Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

**QUESTION:** Does "born of water" in John 3:5 mean "the water of a natural or physical birth?"

**ANSWER:** In an effort to nullify the teaching of Jesus that a man must "be born of water and of the Spirit" in order to enter the kingdom, some preachers will contend that water under consideration here is the water involved in connection with a child being born physically. In other words, it has reference to the **fleshly birth!** However, a careful reflection on the following facts should show that such an explanation of John 3:5 is **false!**

1. Technically, it is **not** really water, but a water-like substance called **amniotic fluid** that is usually associated with giving birth to a child.

2. When such "water" (i.e., **amniotic fluid**) is present it is also "born" the same as the child. Both come forth "of" or "from" the woman!

3. Jesus said: "Except a **MAN** be born of water and of the Spirit. . ." He did **not** say, "Except **AN UNBORN INFANT** be born of water and of the Spirit. . .!"

4. If "water" here means a **fleshly birth**, does that mean that all "**dry birth**" children will go hell?

5. Verse 6 says: "**That which is born of THE FLESH IS FLESH; ..**" Jesus did **not** say: "**That which is born of water IS FLESH!**"

6. Jesus did **not** say: "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot be born **PHYSICALLY** or be born **THE FIRST TIME!**"

7. Jesus was **not** telling Nicodemus how to be born **PHYSICALLY** but how to be born **SPIRITUALLY!**

8. To be born **AGAIN** one must "**be born of water of the Spirit!**" A **NEW birth**, a being born **AGAIN** is being discussed! To be born **AGAIN**, to be born **FROM ABOVE**, one must "**be born of water and of the Spirit. . .**"

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## THE INSTRUCTOR

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### *Editorial . . .*

## SOME NEEDED CHANGES

The apostle Paul declared: **“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”** (2 Cor. 5:17). When a penitent believer is baptized INTO Christ (cf. Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27; Acts 2:38), he becomes a **new creature**, hence, a **changed person!** Let us now consider some people who **need to be changed** and the **changes** they need to make.

1. **A CARNAL PERSON NEEDS TO BE CHANGED INTO A SPIRITUAL PERSON WHO LOVES GOD!** Paul showed the **need** for this change when he said: **“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”** (Romans 8:6). This **change of mind** (i.e., **heart**) is brought about **by faith!** (See Heb. 11:6; John 8:21, 24; 20:30-31; Romans 5:1; 2 Cor. 5:7 & Rom. 10:17).

2. **A PERSON WHO LOVES THE WORLD NEEDS TO BE CHANGED INTO A PERSON WHO LOVES GOD!** John said: **“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”** (1 John 2:15; Also see verses 16-17; Mt. 22:29; 1 John 4:19). This **change of affections** is brought about by **God’s love!** (See

1 John 4:8-10; 4:19; Rom. 5:8).

3. **A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN FOLLOWING MAN’S WAYS NEEDS TO BE CHANGED INTO A PERSON WHO FOLLOWS GOD’S WAYS!** A careful study of such passages as Jeremiah 10:23; Proverbs 14:12; Isaiah 55:8-9 & Matthew 15:7-9 should establish this point. This **change** is brought about **by repentance!** (See 2 Peter 3:9; Acts 17:30; 3:19; Matthew 3:8 & 2 Cor. 7:10). **NOTE: Repentance is a change of heart** that is wrought by **godly sorrow** and results in a **change of life!**

4. **A PERSON WHO IS A FRIEND OF THE WORLD NEEDS TO BE CHANGED INTO A FRIEND OF CHRIST!** James said: **“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”** (4:4). Jesus declared: **“Ye are my friends, if ye do what I command you.”** (John 15:14; Also see John 14:23-24; 1 John 4:15 & Acts 8:37). This **change of allegiance** is brought about by **confession!** (Also see Romans 10:9-10 & Matthew 10:32-33).

5. **A CHILD OF THE DEVIL NEEDS TO BE CHANGED INTO A CHILD OF GOD!** In 1 John 3:10 a clear distinction is made between **children of God** and **children of the devil!** The **“good seed”** in Matthew 13:38 are **the children of the kingdom** and **“the tares”** are **the children of the wicked one!** Jesus told some Jews in John 8:44 that they were of their **“father the devil.”** They needed to make a change! They needed to truly become **children of God** like the Galatians had! See Galatians 3:26-27. This **change of relationship** takes place in **baptism!** (See Gal. 3:26-27).

6. **A CITIZEN OF THE POWER**

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## SOME NEEDED CHANGES

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**OF DARKNESS NEEDS TO BE CHANGED INTO A CITIZEN OF THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST!** The whole world (without) lies in wickedness and thus is in darkness! Jesus said: **“I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.”** (John 12:46). Saul was sent to the Gentiles **“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive the forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith”** in Christ! (Acts 26:17-18). Saints have been called **“out of darkness into His marvelous light.”** (1 Pet. 2:9). This change of citizenship is brought about by a translation! In Colossians 1:13-14 Paul affirms that the **Father “. . .Hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son.”** Christians are truly children of light! We ought to act like it! (See Eph. 5:8; Matthew 5:14-16; Phil. 2:15-16 & 1 Thess. 5:4-6).

**7. A SINNER NEEDS TO BE CHANGED INTO A CHRISTIAN!** At one time Saul was **“the chiefest of sinners”** but he was changed into a Christian! Paul said: **“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.”** (1 Tim. 1:15). We learn from Acts 26:19-32 that Paul endeavored to persuade men to become Christians! (Read and carefully study Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16 and Romans 8:8). This change of name is brought about by the new birth! (See John 3:3-5; 1 Pet. 1:22-25; 1 Cor. 4:15; James 1:18). In writing to his brethren James said: **“Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?”** (2:7). Instead of being content with wearing

the name of Christ, many people choose to wear other names.

**8. A SERVANT OF SIN NEEDS TO BE CHANGED INTO A SERVANT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!** To the saints at Rome the apostle Paul wrote: **“But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”** (Romans 6:17-18). NOTE: Jesus said: **“...Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.”** (John 8:34). In order to become a servant of righteousness, one who is a servant of sin **must change his vocation!** This change of vocation is brought about by obedience to God! (Carefully study Romans 6:16-23; Eph. 4:1-6; Matthew 7:21; Revelation 22:14; James 1:21-25 and Hebrews 5:9).

**9. A PERSON WHO IS ON HIS WAY TO HELL NEEDS TO BE CHANGED INTO A PERSON WHO IS ON HIS WAY TO HEAVEN!** There are two destinies! **Heaven is for the righteous and hell is for the wicked!** Read and carefully study Matthew 25:31-46 where a judgment scene is graphically described! The **righteous** will be told to **“Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”** but the **wicked** will be told to **“Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”** This change of destination is brought about by an **obedient faith!** (Cf. Hebrews 5:8-9; Gal. 2:20; James 2:24 & Rev. 22:14).

Have you been changed? Are you now a changed person? **Do you need to change? If you need to change, NOW IS THE TIME TO AFFECT THAT CHANGE!**

(CRS)

# “BORN OF WATER” – SOME QUESTIONS

*(Continued from page 1)*

9. The **ONLY** water that is involved in the **NEW BIRTH** is **water** in which a sinner is **baptized in order to be saved!** (See Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 8:36; 10:47-48; 22:16 & 1 Peter 3:21).

**QUESTION:** When Jesus said “**water**” in John 3:5 did He mean “**LIVING water?**”

**ANSWER:** There is absolutely no evidence that Jesus was discussing “**LIVING water**” in John 3:5! In John 4:10-15 when Jesus discussed **LIVING water** He did **not** say simply **water**, but He said “**LIVING water!**” In John 3:5 Jesus said **water!** He did **not** say **LIVING water!** He said **what He meant and He meant what He said!**

**QUESTION:** Did Jesus mean “**born**

**of THE SPIRIT**” in John 3:5 when He said: “. . .**born of WATER?**”

**ANSWER:** No! He meant “**born of WATER!**” It is evident that he meant “**born. . .OF THE SPIRIT**” when He said: “**born. . .OF THE SPIRIT!**” However, when Jesus said “**born of WATER**” He meant “**born of WATER!**” Surely, Jesus was **NOT** saying: “**Except a man be born of SPIRIT and of the SPIRIT he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**” **NOTE:** We have **no right to change the words of our Saviour just because it does not fit a certain theology!**

Let us remember that Paul said: “**Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.**” (1 Thess. 5:21).

(CRS)

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## – SENTENCE SERMONS –

Keep you mouth closed and you won't put your foot in it.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is better to be cheated occasionally than to never trust.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is better to suffer wrong than to do it.

\* \* \* \* \*

Keep your head and heart going in the right direction, and you'll never have to worry about your feet.

\* \* \* \* \*

Nothing will stir up more mud than a groundless rumor.

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