

## BORN AGAIN


By H. P. Robinson

"Jesus answered and said unto him, verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3.

The marvelous truth contained in these words expressed the very heart of the remarkable claims of Christianity. This startling fact lifts Christianity above all other religions on earth and sets it apart as unique in character and function. Christianity is like many other recognized religions in that it contains a set of moral codes and laws. But, it is far more than that. It is a life; a new life. No other religion would dare make such drastic claims as that a man could be born again.

We sometimes criticize Nicodemus for his dilatory perception in that memorable discussions with Jesus Christ. But we are the stupid ones when we do that. He had a brilliant mind, yet the unbelievable possibilities suggested by the words of Jesus staggered him. We take it for granted, accept it by faith and often question the motives of Nicodemus in trying to penetrate the marvelous mystery of the new birth. He came to Jesus by night it is true. Some criticize him for that; call him a coward; say he was afraid someone might see him; afraid <sup>that</sup> ~~of~~ his public affinity with Jesus would put him into disrepute. They say he was ashamed to come to Jesus by day, but the fact remains that whatever might have been the motive, that prompted this journey beneath the curtain of the night, there has come down, through almost two thousand years the story of the Master in Israel coming to Jesus Christ. That is all that matters--he came. Some circumstances are more honorable than others, I agree--but however a man gets to Jesus; it is the fact that he gets there that counts. The thief found him on a cross. Zacharias found him in a sycamore tree by the wayside. D. L. Moody found him in a shoe store in Boston, Billy Sunday found him in the Old Pacific Garden Mission. Some people find him in the morning of life, some in the noon time, some on their





dying beds and some find him at the very door of despair. I think the most honorable way to find him is to decide when you're in the morning of life that the one thing worth while, ~~that~~ is to become a Christian.


Like Moses, who sat down while yet a young man, weighed the values in an even balance, and made his choice. He took the best <sup>the world</sup> had to offer, and the worst in religion, made a comparison and decided it was best to ~~be a christian.~~ *Follow God.*

It was the mystery of the new birth that frustrated Nicodemus. "Is it possible for an old man to be born again?" he questioned. Jesus suggested a mystery and a miracle in his reply. When he compared it to the physical birth, it was of little help to Nicodemus because even the mysteries of the physical birth are not yet fully defined.

In the creation, we were generated into being. Then we were degenerated by sin through the Fall, making it absolutely necessary for all of Adam's race to be regenerated by a spiritual or second birth. When the grain of seed is planted in the earth, the power of generation begins. It bursts out of the earth and makes a blade of corn and reproduces after its kind. It cannot be explained. So is the new birth.

The new birth brings into being a new generation after its kind. This marvelous transformation which is the badge of Christian identity, basés its authority on the shed blood of Jesus Christ. His precious blood, His pure blood, His powerful blood. The blood of Christ is the foundation upon which Christianity makes all its claims.

The most fitting Old Testament type of the new birth is the occasion when a nation was born in a day. The blood was sprinkled on the doors of the slaves of Goshen and two million walked out free. They were born of blood--the blood made them free, from slaves into free people in one night--from a group of cowering, whimpering slaves into a mighty nation with whom all the world had to reckon in one night--born again.



It is not a process; a gradual laying off of the things of evil, it is a crisis, a spiritual transformation, a birth from above. The necessity of such a drastic experience is ~~the experience~~ very clearly defined in the text. "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." There is no alternative--nothing to compensate for it--nothing ~~is~~ offered to take its place. It is important because we're immortal, and somewhere beyond this earth we must live again. It is important because there is another kingdom beyond this world where men born the second time will be the subjects and where Jesus Christ, the founder and finisher of this experience will be King Eternal. It is important because Jesus preached it.