



Born of God



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Introduction

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13).

Can a person actually be born of God? Just what is being born of God or being “born again”? The Bible records a man, named Nicodemus, asking Jesus a question about being born again. *“How can a man be born when he is old?”* (John 3:4), he asked. Nicodemus was by no standard an ignorant man. On the contrary, he was a ruler of the Jews and, in such a position, was obviously both intelligent and educated. Yet, Nicodemus did not understand when Jesus told him, *“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God”* (John 3:3).

The same question asked by Nicodemus is being asked by many sincere, seeking people today. Sadly, few have taken the time to search the scriptures for an explanation of the spiritual birth. And, those who try to explain this miraculous event are often influenced by erroneous church tradition or public opinion, rather than Bible truth. Let us consider this extremely important Bible subject: **born of God**.

In any study, the pursuit of truth should be paramount, but we must agree that truth is established by God, not by man. In this particular study we will consider Biblical truths relative to the outward, physical body and the inward, spiritual body of man (mankind). Man is both a physical and a spiritual being.

Chapter 1

MAN (MANKIND) HAS BOTH A PHYSICAL BODY AND A SPIRITUAL SOUL

Bible Study:

Matthew 10:28, “*And fear not them which kill **the body**, but are not able to kill **the soul**: but rather fear him which is able to destroy **both soul and body** in hell.*”

1 Corinthians 15:44b, “***There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.***”

2 Corinthians 4:16, “*For which cause we faint not; but though our **outward man** perish, yet the **inward man** is renewed day by day.*”

1 Peter 2:11, “*Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from **fleshly** lusts, which war against the **soul**;*”

Matthew 26:41, “*Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the **spirit** indeed is willing, but the **flesh** is weak.*”

Conclusion:

The Bible plainly teaches that man has:

1 an *outward, physical body*, **and**

2 an *inward, spiritual soul*.

Review Questions:

1. There is a _____ body and there is a _____ body.

2. The physical body is the _____ and the spiritual body is the _____.

3. The physical body is also called the _____ man and the spiritual body is also called the _____ man.

4. We should fear God who is able to destroy both _____ and _____ in hell.

Chapter 2

THE PHYSICAL BODY IS TEMPORAL AND WILL PERISH!

Bible Study:

Hebrews 9:27a, “*And as it is appointed unto men once to die...*”

Romans 5:12, “*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*”

Romans 7:18a, “*For I know that in me (that is **in my flesh,**) dwelleth no good thing.*”

Romans 7:24, “*O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*”

1 Peter 1:24, “*For **all flesh is as grass,** and all the glory of man as the flower of grass, The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:*
“

Genesis 3:19, “*In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*”

1 Corinthians 15:50, “*Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God;** neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.*”

Conclusion:

Our physical body has no eternal promise, no eternal salvation and no eternal hope. It will die and it will perish.

Study Questions:

1. The physical body cannot live forever; it must _____.

2. _____ passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.
3. The Bible tells us the physical body came from _____ and shall return to _____.
4. _____ and _____ cannot inherit the kingdom of God.
5. There is no eternal _____ for the physical body.

Chapter 3

THE SPIRITUAL SOUL IS ETERNAL AND WILL EXIST FOREVER!

Bible Study:

Daniel 12:2, “*And many of them that sleep...shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*”

Matthew 25:34, “*Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*”

Matthew 25:41, “*Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*”

Matthew 25:46, “*And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*”

Acts 24:15b, “*that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.*”

1 John 2:25, “*And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.*”

2 Thessalonians 1:7b-9, “*When the Lord Jesus shall be revealed...in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction...*”

Conclusion:

When the spiritual soul (inward man) is separated from the physical body (outward man), that soul will have an everlasting, conscious existence in either heaven or hell.

Study Questions:

1. The inward man (or soul) will exist somewhere _____.
2. Some souls will have _____ life and some will have _____ contempt.
3. Unbelievers will exist in everlasting _____ and everlasting _____.
4. God promised eternal _____ to those who receive Jesus Christ as Saviour.

Chapter 4

WE MUST CONSIDER THE FUTURE OF OUR ETERNAL SOUL!

Introduction:

Strangely, most people prepare for the future of the physical body and ignore the existence of God and the future of their eternal soul. Such a person is extremely foolish.

Psalm 14:1, *“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.”*

Mankind makes great plans throughout life and strives to enhance his lifestyle: recreation, appearance, education, health, job, finances, and retirement. Much effort is put into caring for a body that is here today and tomorrow returns to dust. Yet, there is little thought about where the soul will spend eternity. In view of the following verses, it seems logical to prepare to meet the Almighty God and Creator of the universe.

Bible Study:

Deuteronomy 32:29, *“O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!”*

Ecclesiastes 11:8, *“But if a man live many years, and rejoice in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many...”*

Jeremiah 29:13, *“And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”*

Amos 4:12b, *“and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.”*

John 3:3b, *“Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

John 3:18, *“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”*

Acts 16:31, “...**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.**”

Romans 14:11-12, “...**As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.**”

2 Peter 3:7, “**But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.**”

Conclusion:

There are questions we all need to ask ourselves: Where will my soul spend eternity? Is my heart right with God? Am I ready to stand before God and be judged for my sin? One must consider the aging and deterioration of the flesh and brevity of life. We will all stand before God much sooner than we think. Jesus gave simple instructions for the inward man to meet God. Jesus said, “**Ye must be born again**” (John 3:7b).

Study Questions:

1. All people should _____ to meet the Almighty God.
2. We will find God when we _____ for him with all our heart.
3. It is a _____ who says there is no God.
4. Those who _____ are not condemned, but those who do not _____ are condemned already.
5. Every one of us will give an _____ to God.

Chapter 5

TWO PERSONS, TWO BIRTHS, AND TWO KINGDOMS!

Introduction:

To understand the term, “**born of God**,” we must make a distinction between that which is physical and that which is spiritual. Jesus makes a distinction between the physical and spiritual person (body and soul), the physical and spiritual births (born and born again), and the physical and spiritual kingdoms (kingdom of this world and kingdom of God). Our study takes us back to Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, apparently coming to Jesus for information (John 3:1-8). Nicodemus acknowledged Jesus was a teacher come from God and this was probably due to the miracles Jesus had performed.

Bible Study:

John 3:3, “*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.*” – Please note the word “again.” When Jesus said, “born again,” the word “again” implies a previous birth.

John 3:4, “*Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?*”

-- Nicodemus did not comprehend the spiritual truth explained by Jesus. He thought of the physical birth and knew it was not possible to be physically born a second time. It is obvious Nicodemus could not make a distinction between physical and spiritual and, therefore, he could not understand.

John 3:5, “*Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*”

The focal point of this verse is, “Except a man be **born of water** and of **the Spirit**...” Some Bible scholars believe that the “water” of John 3:5

depicts the Holy Spirit or the water of the Word. Other scholars believe Jesus continued to parallel the fleshly birth with the spiritual birth to enable Nicodemus to more easily understand the truth of being born again. Inasmuch as Jesus used the fleshly birth to explain the spiritual birth, I believe the interpretation of “born of water” is more contextually correct as the water of the physical birth. Fundamental Bible scholars agree that contextual continuity totally excludes baptism from being a possible interpretation for water in John 3:5. This water illustrates birth, not death, while *baptism symbolizes a death, burial and resurrection, not birth:*

“...*baptized into his death?*” (Romans 6:3)

“*Buried with him in baptism...*” (Colossians 2:12)

Water baptism is a physical act (work) and does not save, but is a picture of the Gospel of Jesus Christ: His death, His burial and His resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

The author believes the water in John 3:5 means the water of the womb; it substantiates the thought of two births. Mothers remember that event in the physical birth of their children: **the water breaks!** Water brings forth or ushers a baby into the kingdom of this world (physical birth) and beautifully illustrates the Holy Spirit bringing forth or ushering the believer into the kingdom of God (spiritual birth). John 3:6, “*That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*”

-- Again, Jesus differentiates between the physical and spiritual births. If one is born of fleshly parents, that person would necessarily be flesh. Also, that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Seed reproduces after its own kind. Our first birth is from the seed of our earthly father (fleshly and corruptible). The second birth is from the seed of our heavenly Father (spiritual and incorruptible). Both John 3:6 and 1 Peter 1:23 show the first (physical) birth of the flesh and the second (spiritual) birth of God. 1 Peter 1:23, “*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*”

Let us use columns to clarify:

Born

Born of corruptible seed

Born of flesh

Born physically

Born Again

Born of incorruptible seed

Born of God

Born spiritually

John 3:7, “*Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*” Our Lord uses “again,” referring to the second birth.

John 3:8, “*The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit.*” “Born of the Spirit” indicates the Holy Spirit or “**born of God.**”

We can see the teaching of Jesus to Nicodemus (John 3:1-8) by continuing the use of columns as follows:

The Natural

Kingdom of this world

Fleshly birth

First birth

Born (implied) - verse 3

Born of water - verse 5

Born of flesh - verse 6

Born (implied) - verse 7

The Spiritual

Kingdom of God

Spiritual birth

Second birth

Born again

Born of the Spirit (God)

Born of the Spirit (God)

Born again

The emphasis of being born of God (the second birth) is also very plain in the following verses:

John 1:12-13, “*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the **sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name: **Which were born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God**.*”

We can, according to God's Word, become sons of God. However, this is a spiritual relationship of the spiritual man. This relationship is gained through faith in Jesus Christ and is not earned. One does not become a member of God's family through religious acts, good deeds or works, finances, baptism, church membership, or anything “physical.” The new birth is spiritual. We are born of God (have a new beginning) when we repent, turn from our unbelief and by faith receive Jesus Christ as Saviour.

Let us use columns for John 1:13, showing the body and the soul.

The Natural Body

(born fleshly)

Born of blood - verse 13

Born of the will of the flesh

Born of the will of man

Born of flesh

The Spiritual Body

(born spiritually)

Born, not of blood

Born, not of the will of the flesh

Born, not of the will of man

Born of God

The Bible makes a very plain distinction between those whose only beginning (birth) is of earthly parents, and those who also have a beginning (birth) of God. Only the inward, spiritual man can be born of God and secure eternal life with God.

Conclusion:

God's Word clearly teaches the necessity of being “**born of God.**” If one does not have the **second birth** (born of God), the **second person** (the soul) will not see or enter into the **second kingdom** (Kingdom of God).

Study Questions:

1. Jesus said, “Except a man be _____, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
2. The first birth is the birth of the physical _____ and the second birth is the birth of the spiritual _____.
3. When we are born of the Spirit, we become sons or children of _____.
4. There are two persons: the _____ man (person) and the _____ man (person).
5. There are two births: the first birth or born of the _____ and the second birth or born of the _____.
6. There are two kingdoms: the kingdom of this _____ and the kingdom of _____.

Chapter 6

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE BORN OF GOD?

Introduction:

Birth generally means to be brought forth, to emerge into being, or to be transformed. A simple and often used definition is: **The beginning**. This refers to the beginning of life, independent of the mother's womb, traditionally referred to as our birthday.

Bible Study:

Jesus told Nicodemus: “*Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God*” (John 3:3b).

Jesus simply explained that, to see the kingdom of God, Nicodemus must be brought forth into the spiritual world, as he was once brought forth into the physical world. We could say one must have a physical transformation to become a member of an earthly family and one must have a spiritual transformation to become a member of the family of God.

Conclusion:

“Being *born again*” is one's new beginning, or new life in Jesus Christ, which takes place when we, believing Jesus Christ is the Son of God, repent of our sins and receive him as Lord and Saviour. The new beginning is being **born of God!**

Study Questions:

1. A simple and often used definition of being born again is to have a new _____.

2. Jesus explained to Nicodemus that his physical birth or first beginning was not enough. He must be born _____.

3. To be born again, Nicodemus must have a new beginning or new birth of the _____.

Chapter 7

THE POWER TO BECOME A CHILD OF GOD COMES FROM GOD!

Introduction:

John 1:12, “*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*” Man cannot obtain salvation through his own power, ability or wealth, but he can receive it as a gift. Some people believe they merit being a child of God because of their own goodness, righteousness or religious affiliations. Such persons look to their own intellectual and physical abilities, not realizing salvation was provided by Christ as a gift.

Romans 10:3, “*For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.*”

Bible Study:

Three reasons why only God can provide our salvation:

1) The outward man can do nothing to bring about a new life for the inward man. Flesh is subject to a carnal nature.

Romans 7:18a, “*For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing:*”

Romans 3:23, “*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*”

Romans 6:23, “*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*”

Ephesians 2:8-9, “*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.*”

2) The physical man cannot understand spiritual matters.

1 Corinthians 2:14, “**But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.**” Isn't it interesting how some of the brightest minds of the world cannot grasp spiritual truths? Nicodemus could not understand and he was a ruler. Today, many do not understand.

Mark 10:15, “**Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.**” Man's ego often prevents child-like faith.

Ephesians 4:17-19, “**...walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.**”

2 Timothy 2:7, “**Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.**”

3) Salvation is offered ONLY as a gift. We cannot earn it or buy it. We can receive this gift by faith.

John 3:16, “**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**”

John 4:10, “**Jesus...said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.**”

Romans 6:23b, “**...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**”

2 Corinthians 9:15, “**Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.**”

Ephesians 2:8, “**For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.**”

Conclusion:

Salvation is to be received on God's terms and not our terms. Salvation is not something we achieve, but that which Jesus Christ freely gives to believers. By faith we can receive Jesus Christ, accept God's gift of eternal salvation and become the children of God. John 1:12, "*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*"

Study Questions:

1. The power to become a child of God comes from _____.
2. The outward person (flesh) can do _____ to earn or merit salvation for the inward person (soul).
3. The natural man cannot understand _____ matters.
4. Salvation is a _____ from God and cannot be earned or purchased.

Chapter 8

ONE WHO IS BORN OF GOD HAS ASSURANCE OF ETERNAL SALVATION

Introduction:

Most people have religion for the flesh, but few have salvation for the soul. It is useless to seek assurance of salvation, if one does not truly possess salvation. There is no salvation in good works, religion, or churches; only faith in Jesus Christ results in salvation and gives full assurance.

Bible Study:

John 3:14-16, “*And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That **whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**”*

John 3:36, “***He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life:** and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*”

Everlasting is eternal and forever! This is the promise of God, who cannot lie. Eternal life is life that cannot end. Any life that ends is not (and never was) everlasting life. **There is no record in the Bible of anyone ever being saved twice.** We receive God's gift of everlasting life one time and it is *everlasting*.

Ephesians 4:30, “*And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are **sealed** unto the day of redemption.*” This word, “seal,” means to establish or to settle with finality. We are His.

2 Timothy 1:12b, “*For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to **keep** that which I have committed unto him against that day.*” God is absolutely able to “keep” an eternal soul.

Romans 8:31, “*What shall we then say to these things? **If God be for us, who can be against us?***”

Romans 8:35a, “***Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?***”

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

Romans 10:9, “*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be **saved.***”

John 10:27-29, “*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And **I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish,** neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all: and **no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.***”

Hebrews 10:14, “*For by one offering he hath **perfected** for ever them that are sanctified.*”

2 Timothy 4:18, “*And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will **preserve** me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*”

1 Peter 1:3-5, “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath **begotten** us again **unto a lively hope** by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **To an inheritance** incorruptible, and undefiled, and that **fadeth not away, reserved in heaven** for you, Who are **kept** by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*”

As believers, we are:

- ✓ **sealed,**
- ✓ **preserved,**
- ✓ **perfected,** and
- ✓ **kept**
- ✓ **saved,**

by the power of Almighty God, and Jesus Christ is praying for those who are His. We also have complete assurance of eternal salvation, knowing the Creator of the universe (John 1:3) intercedes for us. He prays to the Father and they are one (John 10:30).

John 17:9, *“I pray for them: I pray not for the world. but for **them which thou hast given me**; for they are thine.”*

Hebrews 7:25, *“Wherefore he is able also to **save** them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”*

To have complete assurance of salvation, we must understand and focus on the need. Jesus Christ came to save the **soul** of man, not his body. Paul said in 2 Timothy 2:7, *“Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.”*

Conclusion:

If we believe God and the Bible to be true, we must also believe the soul that is “born of God” is **saved, sealed, preserved, perfected, and eternally kept by God**. To the believer, this is assurance of eternal salvation.

Study Questions:

1. One cannot be assured of salvation if he does not _____ salvation.
2. Believers are _____ unto the day of redemption.

3. God is able to _____ our soul when we commit it to him.
4. Jesus said that He would give eternal life to believers and they would never _____.
5. Those that are sanctified are _____ forever.
6. The Apostle Paul said the Lord would _____ him unto the heavenly kingdom.

Chapter 9

THOSE WHO ARE BORN OF GOD ARE SAVED FOREVER!

Bible Study:

Romans 4:8, “*Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.*”

1 John 3:6, “*Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.*”

1 John 3:9, “*Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*”

1 John 5:4-5, “*For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*”

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

The key to the above scriptures is: “**whosoever is born of God.**” Due to confusion and failure to understand the Word of God, many Bible teachers and Bible schools teach the meaning of “*doth not commit sin*” as: “*doth not continue to practice sin.*” The error in this teaching is: “practice” refers to the physical body and the above scriptures refer to the spiritual body. Again, we see a common failure in the inability to make a distinction between the physical and the spiritual.

Does “**whosoever is born of God**” refer to the physical (outward) man or the spiritual (inward) man? Is the outward body born of God? No! The flesh is not of the seed of God, neither is the outward man born or begotten of God. The flesh is born of corruptible seed, has a sinful nature, sinful desires and lusts, and wars against the spirit. The above verses do not imply sinlessness of the outward, physical person. The natural, carnal nature of the flesh (the outward man) will always be prone

to sin as long as there is life in the flesh. Simply, “**whosoever is born of God**” is the inward, spiritual soul.

1 John 5:1a, “**Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.**” It is the inward man that believes or does not believe. Unbelief (sin of the inward man) is the only sin that brings eternal condemnation to the soul. Sins of the flesh bring corruption and physical death (Galatians 6:8, Hebrews 9:27).

John 3:18, “*He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*”

Conclusion:

“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin.”

Only the inward, spiritual soul of man is born of God and that inward one who is born of God does not and cannot commit sin. The sin that damns the soul is **unbelief!** Faith wipes out unbelief and the soul is free. If one is born of God, and cannot sin, that soul is saved forever and can never be lost or be condemned to hell. Hebrews 10:14, “*For by one offering he hath **perfected for ever** them that are sanctified.*”

Study Questions:

1. “Whosoever is born of God” refers to the _____ man and not the _____ man.
2. Whosoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is _____.
3. “We know that whosoever is born of God _____ not.”
4. “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit _____.”
5. If a soul cannot sin, can that soul ever be condemned or eternally lost?
 yes no

Chapter 10

BEING BORN OF GOD RESULTS IN AN IMMEDIATE, INWARD CHANGE

Introduction:

A literal and instantaneous change takes place in the inward (spiritual) person when one receives Christ. However, along with this inward change comes a battle between the old carnal nature and the new spiritual nature.

Bible Study:

2 Corinthians 5:17, *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is **a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*

Galatians 6:15, *“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but **a new creature**.”*

Romans 7:23, *“But I see another law in my members, **warring against the law of my mind**,...”*

Romans 8:7-9, *“Because **the carnal mind is enmity against God**: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that **the Spirit of God dwell in you**. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”*

1 Peter 2:11, *“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, **abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul**.”*

Conclusion:

The “new creature” is the inward person who has had a change of mind, attitude and spiritual nature. As a result of this change, the new, spiritual nature and the old, carnal nature struggle for control of the flesh. As we grow closer to Christ and stronger in our faith, we become more able to overcome and control the carnal nature and the behavior of the flesh.

Study Questions:

1. Those born of God are new _____.
2. To those in Christ, _____ are passed away and all things are become _____.
3. The law of the physical members of the body _____ against the spiritual nature of those who are born of God.
4. The carnal mind is enmity against _____.

Chapter 11

SECURITY OF THE SOUL IS NOT A LICENSE FOR THE FLESH TO SIN

Introduction:

Some sincere Christians insist the doctrine of eternal security is a license to live like the devil and still go to heaven. Again, confusion over the flesh (outward man) and the soul (inward man) results in error. Romans 6:1-2, “*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*”

Bible Study:

Romans 7:22-25, “*For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law **in my members**, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is **in my members**. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.*”

Romans 8:1, “***There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.***”

1 Peter 2:11b, “*...abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.*”

Conclusion:

The inward person who has been born of God is a new creature, and **does not desire** to fulfill the lusts of the flesh, but strives to suppress and control fleshly desires and lusts, and is grieved when the flesh prevails. *The individual whose spiritual nature desires to satisfy the sins of the flesh, does not have a new nature and has never been born of God!*

Study Questions:

1. The nature of the flesh _____ against that new nature.
2. We are not to continue in carnal sin to prove God's _____.
3. As believers, we must _____ from fleshly lusts.
4. Believers must walk, not after the _____ but after the _____.

Chapter 12

SINS OF THE FLESHLY BODY AND THE SIN OF THE SOUL

Introduction:

One may ask, “are there different sins of the fleshly body and the spiritual body?” Yes, emphatically yes! Although we have churches teaching that salvation requires sinless perfection of the physical body, such is neither possible, nor scriptural. The Christian's walk is seen in the outward man, or life, but the fleshly or outward man is always in conflict with the inward man. The Christian, after putting his trust in Jesus Christ, becomes a new spiritual creature, with a new **inward** nature. As Christians mature, they will strive to bring the carnal nature under control and subjection. The Bible deals with both the physical body and the spiritual body, but many, either willfully or ignorantly, seem unable to comprehend the spiritual. It is “natural” for all of us to focus on the physical and it is “spiritual” for those born of God to focus on the spiritual. The following scriptures show a distinct difference.

Bible Study:

1) The scriptures say we all sin!

Romans 3:9-10, “*What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that **they are all under sin**; As it is written, **There is none righteous, no, not one.**”*

Romans 3:23, “***For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.**”*

1 John 1:8-10, “***If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.**”*

2) The scriptures say those born of God cannot sin!

1 John 3:6, “**Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.**”

1 John 3:9, “...**Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.**”

1 John 5:4a, “**For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world:”**

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

Conclusion:

1 and 2, above, would be a contradiction of the Word of God, if the Apostle John was not making a distinction between the natural man and the spiritual man.

1 - refers to the sins of the outward, fleshly body: and

2 - refers to the absence of sin from the inward spiritual body of those born of God.

Study Questions:

1. “ _____ have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”
2. “If we say that we have _____ sin, we deceive ourselves.”
3. God will not _____ sin to the believer (see Chapter 9).
4. The one sin that condemns the soul is _____ (see Chapter 9).

Chapter 13

SATAN ATTACKS US THROUGH THE FLESH

Introduction:

According to 1 John 2:16, all sins of the flesh can be broken down to three categories: 1. *lust of the flesh*; 2. *lust of the eyes*; 3. *pride of life*.

Bible Study:

Let us consider Eve in the Garden of Eden. Eve became guilty of all three categories when she decided to eat of the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:6):

1. The fruit was good for food (lust of the flesh).
2. It was pleasant to the eyes (lust of the eyes).
3. It was desired to make one wise (the pride of life).

Eve was guilty of these fleshly sins, but before she succumbed to fleshly temptations, Eve was guilty of a greater, inward, spiritual sin. The first sin of Eve was in her innermost being: **Eve did not believe and put her trust in God and His Word!**

The three categories, in the above paragraph, cover the sins of all flesh, including David (2 Samuel 11:2-6) and Samson (Judges 14:1-12). We see in Matthew 4:1-10 where Satan also tried to tempt our Lord in the same three areas above. Satan appealed to Jesus to:

1. Satisfy the **flesh** by commanding stones to be made bread, v. 3.
2. Satisfy the **eyes** by seeing the kingdoms of the world, v. 8.
3. Satisfy the **pride of life** by proving He was the Son of God, v. 6.

Conclusion:

Our Saviour was victorious over the flesh. He was perfect and sinless as both man and God. Galatians 5:24, “*And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*” Christians must crucify and control the flesh if they are to be victorious in this world.

Study Questions:

Satan attacks everyone through three basic categories of carnal sin.

1. Lust of the _____.
2. Lust of the _____.
3. The _____ of life.

Chapter 14

YOUR FLESH WILL NOT DETERMINE THE DESTINY OF YOUR SOUL

Introduction:

Some believe good people go to heaven, and bad people go to hell. **This is not true!** If only good people went to heaven, none of us would be there because, “*there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*” (Romans 3:12b). If only bad people went to hell, we would all be there because, “*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*” (Romans 3:23). Let us consider some who went to hell, one who went to heaven, and the difference.

Bible Study:

The rich man: Luke 16:22-23, “*...the rich man also died, and was buried; and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments...*” The Bible gives no record of this man doing anything evil, although all men are sinners. The rich man did, however, ask Father Abraham to send Lazarus to testify to his brothers, “*lest they also come into this place of torment*” (v. 28c). Abraham said, “*If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead*” (v. 31). It is obvious the rich man did not believe in God while on the earth, but he became a believer in hell. He believed, but too late!

The Pharisee: Luke 18:11-14 relates the life of the Pharisee. He testified that **he was not** an extortioner, unjust, or an adulterer, but fasted twice a week, gave tithes of all his possessions, and was obviously a religious leader. He depended upon his own apparent goodness rather than on Jesus Christ. Jesus plainly said the Pharisee was not justified.

King Agrippa: When the Apostle Paul was speaking to King Agrippa, he said, “*King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest. Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian*” (Acts 26:27-28). King Agrippa was in charge of the temple

at Jerusalem and was the one who designated the High Priest. The Bible gives no record of King Agrippa being wicked, but he apparently died without Christ.

The thief on the cross: Remember the thief on the cross with Christ? He confessed he was condemned justly and deserved the death penalty. We have no record of this thief ever doing one good deed, joining a church, giving a tithe, or being baptized. This man was not good, but he believed in Jesus. This is indicated by: confession of sin, acknowledging Jesus as Lord, and his request to Jesus. Jesus said to this wicked man, “*To day shalt thou be with me in paradise*” (Luke 23:43b).

Conclusion:

- ✓ **No sins of the flesh ever sent a soul to eternal punishment.**
- ✓ **No goodness of the flesh ever admitted one soul into heaven.**
- ✓ **The sin that damns souls for all eternity is UNBELIEF.**
- ✓ **Eternal salvation of the soul is God’s gift to BELIEVERS.**
- ✓ **BELIEF and UNBELIEF are actions of the inward man, not the flesh, and the one who TRUSTS in Jesus Christ will never have reason to DISTRUST. The inward person (soul), who is born of God, cannot disbelieve (sin) and that soul can never be lost.**

If this seems difficult, please review: 1 John 3:6; 3:9; 5:4 and 5:18.

Study Questions:

1. Can people who are determined to be good (in the eyes of the world) still spend eternity in hell?

yes no

2. Can those who have acknowledged to be wicked be born of God and receive the promise of heaven?

yes no

3. The sin of _____ is the one sin that condemns a soul to eternal punishment.

Chapter 15

WE CAN KNOW WE ARE BORN OF GOD!

Introduction:

Multitudes **think** they are born of God because of their morality or religious lifestyle rather than trusting in Jesus. Many sincere Christians have surrendered themselves to the Lord, but are not sure if they are born of God. Limited knowledge of the Bible causes doubt. When we doubt, we should take inventory. The four following tests will help to check out one's salvation

Bible Study:

- ✓ Check your fruit.

Because of the new nature, the true believer will desire to control the flesh. As new Christians mature, they gain more control of the flesh and produce fruit.

John 15:5, *“I am the vine, ye are the branches: **He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit...**”*

Matthew 7:15-16, *“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. **Ye shall know them by their fruits...**”*

Matthew 7:20, *“**Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.**”*

Hebrews 6:8, *“**But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.**”*

- ✓ Check God's chastening for your carnal sin.

When Christians fail to control the flesh, God deals with them as a concerned father to a disobedient child; God disciplines His own.

Hebrews 12:6-8, *“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.”*

✓ Check for the presence of God’s Holy Spirit in your life.

1 Corinthians 3:16, *“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”*

Romans 8:14, *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”*

Romans 8:16, *“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”*

✓ Check the Word of God.

1 John 5:13, *“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.”*

2 Timothy 2:15, *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

2 Timothy 3:16-17, *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*

Study Questions:

1. If we abide in Christ (the vine) we will bring forth much _____.

2. If we are born of God and do not control our fleshly desires, we will be _____ by God.

3. The Holy Spirit of God bears witness with believers to assure them that they are the _____ of God.

4. One of the purposes for reading and studying the Word of God is that we may know that we have _____ .

Chapter 16

MAKING THE CHOICE

Introduction:

Joshua 24:15b, “...*choose you this day whom ye will serve...*”

The Holy Spirit of God brings each of us to a place in our life where we realize God and eternity are real; and we must then make a choice of what we will do about our relationship with God.

It is difficult to break old superstitions, religious traditions and doubt, but one can only receive Jesus Christ by faith. The greatest choice you and I will ever make in our life is an eternity **with or without Jesus Christ as Saviour.**

It is truly a choice of **eternal life** or **eternal death.**

In studying God's Word, we find that sin produces death and all flesh will die because of carnal sin. For those who will not believe, there will also be death to the soul, which is eternal separation from God and eternal punishment in hell.

Bible Study:

The following scriptures show us that sin produces death:

Romans 6:23, “*For **the wages of sin is death**; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*”

Genesis 2:17, “*But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*”

Romans 5:12, “*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, **and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.***”

Ezekiel 18:4c, 20a, “***The soul that sinneth, it shall die.***”

Revelation 20:14-15, “*And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. **This is the second death.** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*” This verse speaks of the dreadful eternity of the soul.

Whether we consider physical sin which brought forth physical death to the body, or spiritual sin which brings forth spiritual death to the soul, God says: “*the wages of sin is death.*”

Thank God there is another choice, and that is LIFE!

John 3:14-16, “*And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have **eternal life.** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but **have everlasting life.***”

John 17:3, “*And **this is life eternal,** that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*”

Galatians 6:8, “*For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap **life everlasting.***”

Conclusion:

It is our choice...

Life or Death!

Heaven or Hell!

Jesus Christ or Satan!

John 3:17-18, “*For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. **He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned***”

already, **BECAUSE HE HATH NOT BELIEVED** in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

Study Questions:

1. We should choose today whom _____ .

2. The soul that sinneth, it shall _____ .

3. Those who believe in Jesus Christ will have _____ .

4. Our choice is:

Life or _____ .

Heaven or _____ .

Jesus Christ or _____ .

Chapter 17

WHAT MUST I DO TO BECOME A CHILD OF GOD?

Bible Study:

John 3:15-16, “*That **whosoever believeth** in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth** in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*”

John 5:24, “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and **believeth on him** that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*”

John 11:25, “*Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: **he that believeth in me**, though he were dead, yet shall he live.*”

John 12:46, “*I am come a light into the world, that **whosoever believeth on me** should not abide in darkness.*”

John 20:31, “*But these are written, **that ye might believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; **and that believing** ye might have life through his name.*”

Acts 16:30-31, “*...Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and thou shalt be saved...*”

Romans 10:9, “*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe in thine heart** that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*”

1 John 5:1a, “***Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...***”

Proverbs 3:5, “***Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.***”

Conclusion:

We most assuredly can be saved. We can become children of God. We can possess everlasting life. All we must do, according to the Word of God, is believe in Jesus Christ. This does not mean to just believe about Jesus, or merely believe Jesus was a historical figure; even the devils believe. *“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble”* (James 2:19).

To become a child of God, **we must believe to the point of trust!**

To truly believe is to accept Jesus as Saviour of our eternal soul, repent of our sins and submit ourselves to Him forever. We can, by faith, make the decision to accept Jesus as Lord of our life and Saviour of our eternal soul, now: *“...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation”* (2 Corinthians 6:2b).

God loves you, and since you have read to this point, you are, perhaps, concerned about your relationship with God. Would you right now call upon the Lord from your heart?

Prayer

Dear God, I come to you in the name of Jesus Christ. I do believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died on Calvary's cross for me, and that He is the risen Christ. I, here and now, receive Jesus Christ as my Saviour and promise to submit myself to Him, to serve Him and to be a testimony to others of His love and grace. I thank you for loving me and for your gift of salvation which I receive in Jesus' name. Amen.

Study Questions:

1. “ _____ in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own _____.”
2. “ _____ on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”

3. “Whosoever _____ that Jesus is the _____ is born of God.”

4. The last and most important question is: have you or will you now put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ?

yes no

Chapter 18

ANSWERS

Chapter 1

1. natural, spiritual (1 Cor. 15:44)
2. flesh, soul
3. outward, inward (2 Cor. 4:16)
4. soul, body (Mt. 10:28)

Chapter 2

1. die (Heb. 9:27)
2. death (Rom. 5:12)
3. dust, dust (Gen. 3:19)
4. flesh, blood (1 Cor. 15:50)
5. hope

Chapter 3

1. eternally (Mt. 25:46)
2. everlasting, everlasting (Dan. 12:2)
3. fire, punishment (Mt. 25:41,46)
4. life (Mt. 25:46, 1 John 2:25)

Chapter 4

1. prepare (Amos 4:12)
2. search (Jer. 29:13)
3. fool (Psa. 14:1)
4. believe, believe (John 3:18)
5. account (Rom. 14:12)

Chapter 5

1. born again (John 3:3)
2. flesh, soul (John 3:6)
3. God (John 1:12-13)
4. outward, inward (1 Cor. 15:44)
5. flesh, Spirit (John 3:6)
6. world, God (2 Cor. 4:4; John 3:3)

Chapter 6

1. beginning
2. again (John 3:3)
3. soul (John 3:6)

Chapter 7

1. God (John 1:12)
2. nothing (Rom. 3:23; Eph. 2:8-9)
3. spiritual (1 Cor. 2:14, Mark 10:15)

4. gift (Rom. 6:23)

Chapter 8

1. possess

2. sealed (Eph. 4:30)

3. keep (2 Tim. 1:12)

4. perish (John 10:27-30)

5. perfected (Heb. 10:14)

6. preserve (2 Tim. 4:18)

Chapter 9

1. inward, outward (1 John 3:9)

2. born of God (1 John 5:1)

3. sinneth (1 John 5:18)

4. sin (1 John 3:9)

5. no

Chapter 10

1. creatures (2 Cor. 5:17)

2. old things, new (2 Cor. 5:17)

3. war (Rom. 7:23)

4. God (Rom. 8:7-9)

Chapter 11

1. wars (Rom. 7:22-25)
2. grace (Rom. 6:1-2)
3. abstain (1 Peter 2:11)
4. flesh, spirit (Rom. 8:1)

Chapter 12

1. all (Rom. 3:23)
2. no (1 John 1:8)
3. impute (Rom. 4:8)
4. unbelief (John 3:18)

Chapter 13

1. flesh (1 John 2:16)
2. eyes (1 John 2:16)
3. pride (1 John 2:16)

Chapter 14

1. yes (see Luke 18:11-14)
2. yes (see Luke 16:22-23 and Luke 23:43)
3. unbelief (John 3:18)

Chapter 15

1. fruit (John 15:5)

2. chastened (Heb. 12:6-8)
3. children (Rom. 8:16)
4. eternal life (1 John 5:13; 2 Tim. 2:15)

Chapter 16

1. we will serve (Jos. 24:15)
2. die (Ezek. 18:4)
3. eternal life (John 3:14-16)
4. death, hell, Satan

Chapter 17

1. trust, understanding (Prov. 3:5)
2. believe (Acts 16:31)
3. believeth; Christ (1 John 5:1)
4. I will