***Except a Man be Born Again***

 *A Brief Commentary*

*by*

 *Ken Rush*

 **Except A Man Be Born Again**

 *John 3:3,4 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.*

*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?*

Jesus was speaking here to Nicodemus, **a pharisee, a member of the Sanhedrin council, the governing body of Israel**. Nicodemus had heard of the miracles and teaching of Jesus, and yet fearful someone would see him, he came to Jesus at night, for it was not popular for a Pharisee to ask anyone about religious matters, since **they** were the **Spiritual leaders**. He came to ask Jesus about His teaching. He said to Jesus: “*Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.”* And Jesus knowing that Nicodemus was seeking, but did not understand spiritual things, answered him with the words of the above Scripture: *“Except a man be* ***born again****, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* This confused Nicodemus for he had never heard of such things.

*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 was sincere in his question, therefore Jesus answered him by saying:

*John 3:5-7 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. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that* ***which is born of the Spirit is spirit****.*

*Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*

**Nicodemus needed a Spiritual birth*.***

*John 3:9,10 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him,* ***Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?***

Since the Pharisees were also the religious leaders, Nicodemus should have known about Spiritual matters, but the Pharisees had rejected Jesus as God, and did not understand the teaching of Jesus, believing him to be a fraud. However Nicodemus **was** seeking.

In an attempt to explain salvation to unsaved people we have used such terms as “a decision for Christ,” “Choosing Christ,” “accepting Christ,” all of which are foreign to the Scripture.

Perhaps the closest of these termswould be “accepting Christ” for in John 1:12 we read *“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:”* He had come to the nation of Israel, {His Chosen} and most had rejected Him. However to those that believed Him, **accepted** **His teaching** , believing He was from God, and was God, to those He gave the power or ability, to become children of God. *”even to them that* ***believe*** *on his name:”*

We must be careful we do not use that word “believe” to loosely. The Greek for “believe” here is “Pisteua”, meaning to commit to one’s trust, or have confidence in. Therefore it is a deeper meaning than what we often call believing. Today we may say we believe it is going to rain,

when we have seen a few clouds, but it is nothing we would stake our life on. Yet when we trust Christ for salvation we are most definitely staking our life on that trust.

However we do not do this because of our strong faith, but because He gives us that faith and ability. Notice in the following verse, **faith** is a gift of God.

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

In the following verse a man had brought his demon possessed son to Jesus to be healed:

*Mark 9:23,24 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears,* ***Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.***

He believed Jesus could heal his son, yet he realized his faith was not very strong, so he cried out: *“help thou mine unbelief.”*

To be “born again” requires complete trust in the finished work of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We inherited the sin of Adam, and as a result we were born sinners, and lost our position before God. Therefore we must be **saved** from that sin in order to stand before God and enter His heaven. Often we ask a person if they are saved, and often they answer “yes,” not knowing what they need to be saved from. All need to know that they are **lost** **in sin**, separated from Holy God, and on the road to hell, where they will suffer for eternity. Our only hope is Jesus, who died and shed His blood in our place to save us from that sin, and then imputed His righteousness to us so we may be able to stand without sin before Holy God. If we believe in Jesus Christ, completely trusting in His finished work on the cross, God will grant us salvation from our sins and make us a new creation, we will be “born again.” Our thoughts and desires will be changed, we will have a completely different outlook on life, and that precious assurance of going to heaven when we die.

*2Corinthians 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****.*

*1Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

The unsaved cannot understand this, it is impossible for them to understand. It is quite impossible to explain a Spiritual truth or Spiritual event to an unsaved person.

*1Corinthians 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.*

The unsaved often think they must straighten up their lives before they can be saved. This is impossible, because unknowingly they are enslaved to Satan. But when we are “born again” we are set free from Satan, and made alive in Christ.

 *Ephesians 2:1-7 And you hath he quickened, (made alive) who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

My dear friends and readers, you can do nothing of yourself to save your souls. You can only place yourself on the mercy of God, confess to Him that you are a sinner and ask Him for His great salvation. You will find Him gracious and merciful, and you will find the meaning of being “born again.”

*Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

**Praise God we have a wonderful saviour***.*

 **Do you know my Saviour?**

 *By*

 *Ken Rush*

I have a precious Saviour,

 He found me lost in sin.

My life was really helpless

 I didn’t know where to begin.

I didn’t know my condition

 Or care that I was lost.

Until God convicted me,

 Then I counted the cost.

If I didn’t turn to Jesus

 I’d be lost eternally,

For I had no righteousness.

 Only Hell awaited me.

Jesus shed His blood to save me,

 And pay the penalty.

And now I’ve life anew

 For I’m completely free.

He imputed to me Righteousness

 And took my sin away.

He placed me in His family

 I’m a child of God today.