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Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.
Sonshiners: 4:45pm

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

Construction of a Christian
(Mt 7:24-27)

PM Sermon

Fools fashion gods (Isa 44)

Sunday AM Bible Class:

Mark - D. Jackson

Wednesday Bible Class:

Summer Series – R. Earl

The Gospel of Christ TV Program

on Saturday @ 7:30am on Channel 53

BibleWayMedia.org

The Oologah church of Christ only uses the **KJV, NKJV or ASV** translation of the Bible in classes & sermons.

The Oologah Informer

August 16th, 2020

Thoughts from the Preacher

“Blindness”

Blindness we understand is the inability to see with the eyes. However, spiritually it includes the idea to see ourselves. The apostle Paul encourages us to “examine ourselves”. This cannot happen if we are blind to our own condition. Friends, let's make sure we are always of humble mind so we can see ourselves honestly.

If you are spiritually blind and are not humble enough to correct it, you will never be able to become a better Christian and you will be blind to your own sin.

“Believing” in John 3:16

Part 4

By Eric Lyons

John 3:5

Interestingly, in this same conversation with Nicodemus, only 10 brief verses earlier, Jesus stated, “Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God” (John 3:5). Notice that Jesus required something of those who desire entrance into the soul-saving, spiritual kingdom of God (cf. Matthew 25:34): they had to be born again—of water and the Spirit. Jesus doesn't say that one merely mentally “believes” an important truth for entrance into God's kingdom. He certainly doesn't say to repeat “the sinner's prayer” for entrance into the kingdom of heaven. Jesus stresses a serious requirement: “unless” one follow His directions, “he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

So what does it mean to be “born of water and the Spirit”? Perhaps the better question to ask is, “Did God give us any indicators in Scripture to further explain Jesus' instructions to Nicodemus?” Could it be that the inspired apostle John was referring to water baptism? He previously noted three times that John the baptizer immersed sinners in water (John 1:26,31,33) as he preached about the coming Kingdom (Matthew 3:2). John highlighted the fact that, after Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus in John 3:1-21, Jesus and His disciples went to Judea and “baptized” (3:22). John then immediately referenced John the baptizer again, this time noting that he was “baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there” (3:23). Finally, John the apostle remarked at the very beginning of the next chapter that “Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples)” (4:1-2). Given the fact that so many Jews in Jerusalem and in “all the land of Judea” were being baptized by John the baptizer (Mark 1:5), as well as Jesus' disciples, and considering the apostle John's frequent mention of immersion in water, not to mention the dozens of times that water baptism is mentioned elsewhere in the New Testament,

doesn't it make sense that Jesus was referring to water baptism in John 3:5? What other action in the New Testament involving water is associated with entering the Kingdom of God?

Paul indicated that Christians have been sanctified and cleansed "with the washing of water by the word" (Ephesians 5:26). He also taught that "by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body" (1 Corinthians 12:13). Peter noted that we have been "born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God" (1 Peter 1:23). James wrote that God "begat" (KJV) or "brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures" (1:18). And Jesus said we must be "born of water and the spirit" (John 3:5). It seems biblically consistent to conclude that the Holy Spirit's divine "seed" (i.e., His Word/Gospel—Luke 8:11) is planted into the minds of men and works powerfully in their hearts to produce a life-changing understanding of Christ, as well as his own life, which leads to immersion in water in order to enter God's kingdom.

Still, even if a person concludes that he simply does not understand Jesus' statement to Nicodemus, he surely must admit that Jesus' instructions in John 3:5 do not harmonize well with the shallow, life-unaltering, mere acknowledgement-like view of "belief" in John 3:16.

Part 6 next week.