

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Entrance into the church requires such a change it is called "a birth"; it is a conversion.
- B. This morning let's talk about the kingdom of God, and being "born again."

I. THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

- A. It is the church (Ac. 20:28; Rev. 5:9,10).
- B. Not an earthly kingdom (Jn. 18:36; 6:12-15).
- C. A spiritual kingdom foremost, not an accident (Eph. 1:4; 1Cor. 15:23,24).
- D. Peter had the keys to the kingdom (Mt. 16:18,19).

II. "BORN AGAIN."

- A. Many people today claim to be "born again." Chuck Colson -to- Linda Carter. It has become a fad or the "in thing" to say you have been born again.
- B. Synonyms for "born again":
 - 1. Conversion. Become converted like little children (Mt. 18:3).
 - 2. Obedience to the gospel.
 - 3. Being transferred or transplanted (Col. 1:13).
 - 4. Obedient to the faith (Ac. 6:7).
- C. The importance of the exceptive sentence means there is only one way (Jn. 3:3; Mt. 19:9).
- D. Only one birth, not two. Some say that Jn. 3:5 (born of water) refers to physical birth, but in Jn. 3:6 Jesus separates physical birth from spiritual birth.

III. BORN OF WATER.

- A. Water salvation was in the Old Testament (1Pet. 3:20; 1Cor. 10:1,2).
- B. The like figure example is baptism (1Pet. 3:21).

IV. BORN OF THE SPIRIT.

- A. We are born of the Spirit because the spirit gives life (Jn. 6:63).
- B. The Law kills, but the Spirit gives life (2Cor. 3:6).

V. HOW TO BE BORN AGAIN (OF WATER AND OF THE SPIRIT).

- A. One could not be born of the spirit until the spirit came (Ac. 2:1-4).
- B. Remember that Peter had the keys to the kingdom and we must be born again to enter the kingdom.
- C. Therefore what Peter tells us, will be Jesus', instructions on how to see the kingdom of God (be born again).
- D. Peter starts his sermon and tells his audience how to enter the kingdom (Ac. 2:22-36).
- E. Peter tells us how to enter the kingdom and therefore telling us how to be born again (Ac. 2:38).
- F. Being born again is not by:
 - 1. A Feeling.
 - 2. Just Praying.
 - 3. Confession alone.
 - 4. Having some spiritual experience.
 - 5. Living a good moral life.
- G. Being "born again" is by: being baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for the remission of your sins, so that you may receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. To be in the church is to be in the kingdom.
- B. To be in the kingdom one must be born again.
- C. Therefore, to be in the church one must be born again.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.