

Our Issues - God's Answers

Is "Born Again" Really Necessary?

INTRO: You will go to heaven because everyone does. You must be good to go to heaven. You must be baptized to go to heaven. You must be a member of THE church to go to heaven. Various churches in our area teach one of these concepts as the way to heaven. But which one is right? NONE! *Ye must be born again!*

I. THE NECESSITY OF BEING BORN AGAIN

1. Because Of The Lost

- (1) Our Condition - Ep. 2:1; 2 Co. 5:1-4
- (2) Our Corruption - Ep. 2:2; Jn. 8:34, 44; Ro. 5:10
- (3) Our Capability - Ep. 2:3; 1 Co. 6:9-11; Ga. 5:19-21

2. Because Of The Lord

- (1) His Character - Ps. 5:4; 101:7; Hb.1:13; 1 Pt. 1:15-16; He. 12:14
- (2) His Crucifixion - 1Jn. 4:14; 1Co.15:3; 2Co.5:21; 1Pt. 2:24; 3:18
- (3) His Command - Jn. 3:3, 5; Acts 17:30-31

II. THE NATURE OF BEING BORN AGAIN

1. The Process

- (1) Recognize - Jn. 16:7-11; Ro. 3:23; Acts 2:37
- (2) Repent - Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30; 20:21
- (3) Receive - John 1:12; Ro. 10:9; Acts 16:31; 26:20

2. The Proof

- (1) Our Accountability - 1 Jn. 1:7 - 2:2
- (2) Our Alignment - 1 Jn. 2:3-6
- (3) Our Allegiance - 1 Jn. 2:15-17
- (4) Our Anticipation - 1 Jn. 2:28 - 3:3
- (5) Our Aversion - 1 Jn. 3:4-10a
- (6) Our Affection - 1 Jn. 3:10b-19
- (7) Our Assurance - 1 Jn. 5:11-13

CONCL: If you must be born again, then knowing for sure that you are is of utmost importance. Signing a card, walking an aisle, or praying a prayer does not save. The saved have recognized their lost condition because of sin, have repented of that sin, and have received Jesus Christ as the One Who paid the debt of that sin. Is that you? Are you ABSOLUTELY sure you are born again?!

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How Can I Defeat The Devil?

INTRO: Many are clueless when they portray him in literature, jokes, and late night television. Every Halloween there are clueless children trying to look like him. Sadly many Christians are just as clueless about the Devil. It is dangerous to be clueless about your enemy, especially when he is so powerful, so devious, and so relentless to wreck a Christian's life. As they say, "Let's get real!"

I. THE REALITY OF THE DEVIL

1. In The Old Testament

- (1) In The Creation Of God - Ge. 3:1-6
- (2) In The Courts Of God - Job 1 & 2
- (3) In The Country Of God - 1 Ch. 21:1

2. In The New Testament

- (1) Against The Christ - Mt. 4:1-11; Lk. 4:1-13
- (2) Against The Church - Acts 5:1-11

II. THE REALM OF THE DEVIL

1. His Territory - Ep. 2:2; 2 Co. 4:4; Jn. 12:31; 16:11
2. His Troops - Re. 12:3-4; Mt. 12:24; Lk. 11:15

III. THE RESUMÉ OF THE DEVIL

1. His Arising - Ezekiel 28:13, 15
2. His Appearance
 - (1) He Is Beautiful - Ek. 28:12
 - (2) He Is Bedazzling - Lk. 28:13; 2 Co. 11:14
3. His Acumen
 - (1) He Is Perfect - Ek. 28:12, 15
 - (2) He Is Prudent - Ek. 28:12
 - (3) He Is Prominent - Ek. 28:14-16
4. His Affliction - Ek. 28:16-17
 - (1) Its Content - 1 Tm. 3:6; Is. 14:12-17
 - (2) Its Consequences - Jn. 8:44
 - 1a. For The Sinner - Ep. 2:2; 2 Co. 4:3-4
 - 2a. For The Saint - 1 Pt. 5:8-9; 2 Tm. 2:24-26

CONCL: Tonight we have learned to recognize, identify, even understand our enemy, the Devil. Knowing the enemy well is half the battle. Knowing how to combat him is the other half—next week. Come armed with your Sword!