



## SERMON OUTLINE

notes

### I. THE CALLED AND COLLECTED COMMISSIONED FOR GOD'S GLORY

- A. The Church is the people of God who are reconciled to God and one another through Christ, which is reflected in and through the local church
- B. The Church is commission to take the gospel into all the world so that all peoples may enjoy the fullness of Christ in all of life
- C. The local Church is an embassy of God's Kingdom, which means Christians are ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Colossians 1:13-14; Ephesians 2:19)

### II. THE NECESSITY OF NEW BIRTH (John 3:1-10)

- A. Without the new birth the Kingdom of God is inaccessible (John 3:1-3)
  - 1. We are spiritually dead in our sin (Ephesians 2:1-2)
  - 2. We are objects of God's wrath (Ephesians 2:3; John 3:36)
  - 3. We love darkness and hate light (John 3:19-20)
  - 4. We cannot please God (Romans 8:7-9)
  - 5. We cannot come to Christ and believe in the gospel (1 Corinthians 2:14; 12:3)
- B. What is the new birth? (John 3:4-8)
  - 1. It is a supernatural work of the Spirit to give spiritual life in Jesus' name (John 3:6, 8; John 6:63; 20:31; 1 John 5:11-12)
  - 2. It is a cleansing and a creation (John 3:5; Ezekiel 36:25-27)
  - 3. It is the work of God, not of us (John 3:8; John 1:12-13; 6:63; 1 Peter 1:3)

### III. HOW THE NEW BIRTH HAPPENS TO US (1 Peter 1:3-5, 18-19, 22-23, 25)

- A. It happens because and through the finished work of Christ (1 Peter 1:3-5, 18-19)
- B. The Holy Spirit applies the work of Christ to us (Titus 3:4-6; John 3:5)
- C. The gospel is God's instrument of the new birth (1 Peter 1:22-23, 25; James 1:18)
- D. Our faith is awakened with the new birth (1 John 5:1; John 3:16; Romans 10:17)

### IV. A LOVING CHURCH IS THE CREATURE OF THE GOSPEL (1 John 3:23)

# SERMON REFLECTIONS

## John 3:1-10

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” 3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” 9 Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” 10 Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?”

1. Why do we need to be born again? What is lost if one not born again? What is gained when one is born again?
2. In your own words, what is the new birth? What makes the new birth supernatural? How can the new birth be confused with something that is merely natural?
3. How is the new birth a work of God? What is the source of regeneration and how do we receive it? What relationship does faith have with the new birth?
4. What is the evidence the Bible offers for whether one is born again or not? (See 1 John 2:29; 3:4-11; 4:7-12; 5:1-5) What evidence of being born again is in your life? (2 Corinthians 13:5)