

**\*\*READ THE TEXT\*\***

**INTRO-**

*Introductory Illustration*

- A building caught on fire & burned for hours -- the smoke damage, the burning, then the water damage from trying to put it out just left that building *devastated*. Through & through, from corner to corner, from top to bottom, it was *thoroughly affected*. You don't just remodel the outside and make it look good again! No! It needs a thorough *renovation* on the INSIDE. Since the extent of the damage was pervasive thru it all -- then, It must be torn down & re-built, re-created, re-fortified.
  - However extensive the damage was that occurred, the new renovation must **OUTDO** the past devastation. **So it is with regeneration** -- when God gives new life to a soul.
  - What encourages you in evangelism? What comforts you in eternal security? What uplifts you in your fight for holiness & struggle against sin? What transforms your nature to now love Christ & follow Him? What is the first thing that happened when you got saved? What do parents long for when they share the gospel with their children/how will they come to Christ? **Answer: Regeneration!**
- Regeneration is a work of God that transforms the soul. **It's the life of God in the soul of a man.**
  - "God effects a change which is radical and all-pervasive, a change which cannot be explained in terms of any combination, permutation or accumulation of human resources, a change which is nothing less than a new creation by Him who calls the things that be not as though they were, who spoke and it was done, who commanded and it stood fast. This, in a word, is regeneration." (John Murray)
- **The Bible describes this in many ways/synonyms:**
  - The circumcision of the heart (Deut 30.6)
  - Taking away the heart of stone & putting in the heart of flesh (Ezek 11:19)
  - The person who is a “new creation -- new things have come” (2 COr 5.17)
  - No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him (John 6.44)
  - God made us alive together with Christ (Eph 2.4-5)
  - Israel's future regeneration: “life from the dead” (Rom 11.15)
  - It is the Spirit who gives life (John 6.63-64)
  - You have been born again, by the living & enduring Word of God (1 Pet 1.23)
  - God brought us forth by the Word of Truth (James 1.18)
  - The Lord opened Lydia's heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul (Acts 16.13)
  - Jesus calls it: being born again [or, 'born from above'] (John 3.3)
- Regeneration includes: (1) PURIFICATION; (2) RENOVATION; and (3) SALVATION.
  - John Owen: a real work of the Spirit on the souls of men
  - It's a new beginning; a new life; a new birth.
  - If you arrive in heaven, you must be regenerated -- born twice!

### Background to Titus 3

- Titus 3 is spelling out *the Christian living* in society (in a pagan world). How do we do this? What's our motivation, our enablement to live godly in society? **Answer: The gospel!**
- Last week: Titus 3.4-5 - salvation is (1) exclusively from God; (2) emphatically without works; (3) entirely by mercy.
- **How** is this brought \*to you\*? **How does the hope come to your heart? How does the Truth come to your soul? \*Every generation needs regeneration\*. Let's get this!!**

### THESIS — *I want you to be amazed & awed by the GLORY OF REGENERATION. In 5 Biblical Explanations:*

- Regeneration is **Profoundly Merciful**
- Regeneration is **Powerfully Internal**
- Regeneration is **Preeminently Supernatural**
- Regeneration is **Protectively Eternal**
- Regeneration is **Positively Transformational**

#### I. **REGENERATION IS PROFOUNDLY MERCIFUL (5a)**

- A. John 1.12-13 - a work of God (*not man, but God!*)
- B. According to his mercy (Titus 3)
- C. a work of mercy -- pity toward those in misery.
- D. 1 Peter 1:3ff. Man is entirely passive (lost & dead, cold & lifeless) -- **God comes & invades!**
  1. And in this work, God gives His Spirit **richly!** What profound, lavish, excessive, abounding, generous mercy! Marvel at this mercy! Praise Him! Live for Him!

#### II. **REGENERATION IS POWERFULLY INTERNAL (Ezek 36)**

- A. By the washing of regeneration, renewing >> this is not behaviorism. **Jesus didn't come by & PAINT Lazarus' tomb with bright colors to make it appear good; NO! He gave life to Him on the inside!** Regeneration is God imparting life in a sinner's heart/soul.
- B. This tells us that this work of God is: Internal, in the soul (invisible work; inside; below the surface of the skin; *under the hood*). It will affect the life, but it *begins* in the soul!
  1. Language from **Ezek 36:25ff**
  2. Washing - clean water
  3. V.26 - a new heart, new spirit, heart of flesh. (**internal!**)

#### III. **REGENERATION IS PREEMINENTLY SUPERNATURAL (John 3)**

- A. Man can cooperate in a lot of things; but not *regeneration*. It's a sovereign work of God. It's God renovating the soul, implanting new desires there; it raises the dead to life. (born of [ÉΚ] God ; 1 John 5.1; he is 'from [ÉΚ] God' (3 John 11).
- B. By the Spirit whom God poured out -- John 3.3-8
- C. We read in Ezek 36 - God said: "I will!" >> it's a work of GOD
  1. Regeneration is:
    - promised by God — he says "I WILL..."
    - prophesied by God — for Israel in the eschaton
    - perfected by God — GOD alone does the work (*man is passive*)

- personal by God — upon YOU
- profound by God — a profoundly, internal transforming work
- purifying by God — washes, cleanses
- permanent by God — forever.
- preeminent by God — one of the greatest works. *Praise God!*

#### IV. REGENERATION IS PROTECTIVELY ETERNAL (1 Pet 1)

- A. You build a car but it'll fade over time; it won't last forever. *Not so w/ regeneration.*  
This work of God lasts forever.
- B. Of the Holy Spirit - see the kingdom of God! (John 3.3). It is a thoroughly permanent work. Ezek 11.20 - they will be my people & I will be their God.
- C. regenerated by God - man's work wears out & rusts & fades; not God's.
- D. What comfort! Your assurance springs from God's work. All whom God regenerates go to heaven!

#### V. REGENERATION IS POSITIVELY TRANSFORMATIONAL! (Ezek 36)

- A. A new nature - washed; renewing; regenerated, made new *on the inside.*
  1. As your depraved condition was thorough & extensive; so your regeneration is thorough & extensive. *Regeneration transforms your nature!* Life in the soul!
- B. Regeneration consists of a thorough revamping, renovation, re-creation of your nature. Have a new nature, new abilities, new desires, new passions, new ambitions, purposes. Phil 1 - Paul (the former murderer) can say: Christ be magnified in my body (Phil 1.20). The former drunkard now desires Christ. The former fornicator now follows Christ purely. Regeneration is the *spring*; sanctification is the *river*.
- C. transformed in desire
  1. Ezek 36:27 - cause you to walk in my statutes; you will be careful to observe my ordinances.
  2. Ezek 11:20 - to walk in my statutes
  3. 1 Cor 6:11 - but you've been washed!
  4. Rom 6.17 - you were slaves of sin but now you are *obedient from the heart* (v.17-18).
- D. transformed in behavior
  1. How do you know you're regenerated? **Regeneration of heart *always* produces reformation of life.** New creation shows itself in New Conduct.
  2. You'll believe Christ firmly for salvation (1 John 5.1)
  3. You'll practice righteousness & godliness (1 John 2.29)
  4. You'll love other believers (1 John 4.7)
  4. You'll do good (3 John 11)
  5. You'll be careful to walk in God's ways (Ezek 36:27)

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## CONCL-

### *Concluding Illustration*

- 18<sup>th</sup> c. Hymnwriter, Samuel Medley has it spot on when he wrote:

Assist my soul, my heavenly King,  
Thy everlasting love to sing;  
And joyful spread thy praise abroad,  
As one, through grace, that's **BORN OF GOD.**

No, it was not the will of man  
My soul's new heavenly birth began;  
Nor will nor power of flesh and blood  
That turned my heart from sin to God.

Herein let self be all abased,  
And sovereign love alone confessed;  
This be my song through all the road,  
That born I am, and **BORN OF GOD.**

And when the appointed hour shall come,  
That thou wilt call me to my home,  
Joyful I'll pass the chilling flood,  
And die as one that's **BORN OF GOD.**