**What (The New Birth) being born again IS and IS NOT**

***What it is NOT***

***The New Birth is not Baptism***

***John 3:5*** (The Physical Birth, Born of your mother)

“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

***John 3:6***

“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is of the spirit.”

***Titus 3:5***

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”

***Revelation 1:5***

“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,”

***1 Peter 3:21***

“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:”

***1 Peter 3:14-16***

“But and if ye suffer for righteousness sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.”

***The New Birth is not Reformation (Moral Improvement***)

***John 3:1, 7*** (Nicodemus)

“There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.”

***Mark 10:17-22*** (The Rich Young Ruler)

“And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honor thy father and thy mother. And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.”

***Philippians 3: 4-8*** (Saul, Later Paul)

“Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,”

***The New Birth is not Some New Religious Experience***

***Acts 8:9, 13, 18-22*** (Simon Magus)

“But there was a certain man, called Simon, which before time in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostle’s hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.”

***Matthew 13: 3, 5,18,20,21*** (Jesus’ warning)

“And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.”

***What it IS***

***The New Birth is the work of God***

***John 6:63***

“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”

***Ephesians 2:1, 10***

“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

***John 3:5***

“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

***The New Birth is accomplished through the Word of God***

***John 15:3***

“Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”

***1 Corinthians 4:15***

“For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.”

***1 Peter 1:23***

“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.”

***The New Birth is the imparting of a New Nature***

***2 Peter 1:4 “***Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

***2 Corinthians 5:17***

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

***The New Birth is the Only means of entering God’s Family***

***John 1: 12, 13***

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them who believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”