

Are You Born Again?

by Llewellyn Van Der Merwe

The sermon emphasizes the importance of being born again and living a life that is in obedience to God's Word.

Duration: 40:24

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 6:17-18, 1 Peter 1:12-15, Revelation 2:2, Revelation 2:4

Topics: "Born Again"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher speaks passionately about the negative influence of television in our lives. He encourages the audience to take a stand against the devil by getting rid of their TVs and breaking them with a hammer. He emphasizes the importance of first love, which involves repentance and restitution for past wrongs. The preacher also challenges the audience to examine their spiritual lives and question where they have lost their sweet communion with God. He reminds them that anything other than God can become an idol and that Jesus came to set us free from sin, not to indulge in it. The sermon concludes with a reminder that the message is freely available to all and encourages support for the ministry.

Transcript

Hello, this is Brother Llewellyn. We greet you in the wonderful name of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is for us a great privilege to bring unto you the word of God.

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Yes, the Lamb can receive the reward of His suffering. Happy day, happy day, when Jesus was Father in Heaven, Creator of the Heavens. Even the Heavens of Heavens cannot contain Me.

Yet Thou dwellest with Him who truly are of a broken and a contrite. Lord, we are undone in Thy presence this evening. What is man that Thou art mindful of him? The Son of Man that Thou thinkest.

O God, make Thy voice heard this morning, this evening. Let us hear it, and let us not despise it, how sad it is, truly. When men hear the word of God, their countenances are fallen.

They know there is something troubling their hearts. Their consciences are seared, and their judgment is creeping nigh. Speak with us tonight.

Help us to hear, for we are so dull of hearing. Help us to see, because we perceive so little. Little men we are, Lord.

We cry out to You, a powerful living God. Magnify Thy Word tonight, Lord. And let not a man be seen.

O God, I can so easily hinder Thy message this evening. I pray that it be not so. But that You would cut between bone and marrow, Lord.

That You would discern the intents of the heart. That You would confirm Your Word with power. Much power.

Able to set free the captives. To open the eyes of the blind. To proclaim the acceptable here of the Lord.

We ask these things in the name of Him who is worthy. Jesus Christ. We ask ourselves, did Jesus' blood wash our sins away? What does that mean? We ask ourselves the question, what is true Christianity really? Why don't we just go join all these other churches out there? I mean, why have a little group here gathering? What is the reason for all this? What is the purpose? And the answer can only be found in a simple truth that says, He that says he abides in Him ought to walk as He walked.

He that says he abides in Him ought to walk as He walked. He that says he is son of God ought to walk as a son of God. Whosoever believeth on Him, He hath given him power.

Power to be from the children of God. Is this the testimony of our lives? Excuse me. Or are we just like the rest, who call themselves Christians, but we do not do the things that our Lord is asking us to do? You must please pray for me, I have an unpleasant sinus problem.

So, we look here in the book of John, first book of John, chapter 5, verse 18 says, We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not, but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one touches him not. And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him that is true, and we are in Him that is true, even in His Son, Jesus Christ.

This is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourself from idols. Amen.

What a way to end this epistle. One of those passages that you would fairly scarcely hear read in many churches, they will just not read this passage. Because it so contradicts everything they believe.

And they want to believe. But they have made themselves idols in their mind. They have designed for themselves another Jesus.

A Jesus that smiles when you disobey. A Jesus that doesn't care when you walk in their flesh. A Jesus that is not really that much concerned that you are drawing His name through the mud when you live as a carnal Christian.

Whereas the Jesus that we find in Scripture says, Because you are lukewarm, I will spew you out of My mouth. That's the true Christ and God that we worship. It is not this one that is commonly known among the people out there who seems to just bless everything that you do, no matter what it is.

The Jesus that we worship is the one that says, If you want to be My disciple, and forsake not all ye have. You cannot. Leave it.

Go home. Don't waste your time. This is the Christ that we find in Scripture.

Now you can either receive Him or reject Him. But don't fool yourselves. Anything else is an idol.

The Lord has come so that man might live a life that will glorify God. He has not come so that man might live a life enjoying sin. He has come to live a life to set man free and give them the ability, through His Spirit, which is very real, that these verses that we have read will make itself manifest.

Now you can either take your scissors and cut these verses out if your theology doesn't all that well fit with it. Or you must just reckon that this is part of what God's Word says and it needs to balance out in the rest of what is understood. We know we are not under law, but under grace.

But shall we therefore continue in sin? That grace may abound. God forbid. Amen.

Know ye not that they that are dead in Christ are dead to sin? They should no longer live therein. To whom you yield your bodies, His servants you are. You cannot serve two masters.

You either love the one or hate the other. Listen! You cannot serve two masters. If you do not absolutely surrender your life to Christ, you have a double-hearted heart, a double-minded heart, which is unstable in all its ways.

Such man should not believe or hope or expect to receive anything from the Lord. These are hard words found in Scripture. You cannot argue with it.

If your heart is divided in the slightest way, your prayers will not be answered. Now, what are you talking about, brother? Very plainly I am saying to you, prove yourselves whether you are in the faith. You say you are a Christian? Well, good then.

Let's take out the measure stick of how a Christian, real Christian, looks. It's not a super-Christian that we will use as our example. Just a real one.

A normal man, we know, that whosoever is born of God, sinneth not. Jesus said unto Nicodemus, Except a man be born again, he cannot see. Except a man be born of water and of blood, water and of, let's quickly read it.

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a man be born of water and of spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of flesh is flesh.

That which is born of spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I say unto you, you must be born again. Are you born again? Are you born from God? Yes, you say.

Well, what do you make of this verse then? Are you in disobedience to anything that God has told you? You know, one of the first things that God said to Eliph when he comes to him, is forsake all you have. Forsake all you have. And what is all? All is reputation.

All is families, jobs, future, ambition, plans, likes, dislikes, good works, bad works. Forsake all you have, your life, if you not forsake it. You cannot be his disciple.

Isn't there something in your life that you're still holding on to? Something that you know God wants you to let it go. Well, it seems that you then are not in love with Jesus Christ. For he that loves me, keeps my commandments.

Why? Because he sees how much God has loved him. You see, we love him because he first loved us. Our love springs out of a gaze, out of a realization of the life that flows from God, the love that God has for me.

Chapter 4 verse 20. 1 John. If a man say, I love God and hates his brother, he's a liar.

For the love of not his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment have we from him, that he who loves God, loves his brother also. You say you love your brother? Now what example are you living in front of him? You see, he that said that he loves his brother, what is the love that we show to our brothers? Is it the love of compromise? Is it the love of fear? The fear of man? Whereby we actually blind them. You know, if I fear my brother, and I'm afraid to correct him, his blood is on my hands.

How much do you love your brother? Or are you a liar? You say you love your brother, but you're not willing to live a life that will save your brother. You're busy with compromise. Busy with things that you know this is not right.

Is that the way your lives are? If a man say, I love God, hates his brother, he's a liar. When you see your brother in need, do you shut up your bowels of compassion? How does the love of the Father dwell in you then? It's impossible. It's impossible that you are born of God when you hate your brother.

No murderer will inherit the kingdom of God. What? You say I'm a murderer because I don't love my brother? Yes. Yes, you are a murderer.

Because the day you compromise, tomorrow that brother murders. Because you compromised. Because you didn't live a life which convicted him of his sin.

Because you were not willing to be rejected, to be despised, to be shunned, to lose everything for the sake of those around you. You don't love them. You love yourselves.

If you are not willing to sacrifice in obedience to God. You know, when we bend the word of God so that it will suit our lives, when we bend the word of God so that we can go on with the things that we know grieves God, we hate our brother. That's how it is known.

When I lie, then I hate anyone who I lie to. Or who I lie for. Because the wrath of God is revealed from heaven.

For because of those who hold the truth in unrighteousness. The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against those who hold this book but live in sin because they blind people. They blind people to such a degree that the gospel can hardly ever reach them.

No wonder the first attack that the enemy has has launched against the church in our day is to make as many Christians as he possibly can. Just don't let them be true. He has become an evangelist.

He is evangelizing all around the country. Bringing thousands of people to some profession of faith but no reality of any birth. No regeneration.

No washing. No power of the Holy Ghost. Nothing.

A dead church. Hundreds of them. Full of people.

Why? Because it's the best tool to blind the rest. When our lives here confess Christ but in our doings we deny Him. It would have been better for us to be not born than to do that.

We become one of those which Jesus says you are clean but not all. You become guilty of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. You trample the blood underfoot when you call upon His name and not walk in His way.

Many times we would wonder to ourselves now why is the brother so hard on us tonight? That seemingly just reflects the carnal mind we still often have. For it's God who searches the hearts of man. Not man.

I cannot discern in your hearts. But the very words that is spoken. The foolishness of preaching.

God is chosen to convert your souls. So while we hear these words we shall do well not to harden our hearts but to heal ourselves and cry God have mercy on me. Have mercy on me.

You know I've often pondered upon these verses since I once heard a brother share on it. It's in 1st Peter no 2nd Peter let me quickly go there. Yes 1st Peter chapter 1 verse 12 it says unto whom it was revealed that not unto themselves but unto us they did minister the things which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you will the Holy Ghost descend down from heaven which things the angels desire to look into.

Wherefore gird up the loins of your minds be sober and hope unto the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you and the revelation of Jesus Christ as obedient children not fashioning yourselves according to the former lust in your ignorance but as he which hath called you is holy so be ye holy in all manner of conversation. Wow now we have two scriptures that they wouldn't like reading often. Be ye holy as he is holy.

You know there is something there is something about this gospel there is something about this revelation of Jesus Christ that is so glorious that the angels who behold the very presence of God has a desire to look into these things which are revealed in our lives through his Holy Spirit. You see they have a desire to see God in you and you know how they will know it is him? Do you have any idea how the angels will discern that God is in that life? Isn't he the righteous one? Isn't he the holy one? Isn't he the humble one? Isn't he the meek one? The kind? Isn't he the gentle one? Isn't he the one that keeps his word? Isn't he the one that is he living his life in you? Or have you seared your minds with a hot iron and become dull of hearing? Is that the case? Because it is written be ye holy for I am holy. And have you call on the Father who without respect of person judges according to every man's word.

Pass the time of your children a year in fear for as much as you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold from your vain conversation. There was a vain conversation in your life past which you received by tradition from your fathers. You see we all grew up in lives and homes and places most of us that are to be rejected.

We cannot follow that example that we have been given. Because that example either had a Christianity with no fruit or just worldliness. How do I know that? Because I tell you what dear brothers.

If you lived in a home where there was fruit with truth you will be very much used of God in this time. You see because God says those who love my Lord their seed shall be mighty in the earth. If I grew up in a home where God so always loved God would have used me to shake this place.

Does that mean He cannot use us still? Yeah He can. But you know how many baggage He now has to carry out of our hearts. You know what a rough work India needs to work it out in us to just get us to start.

Let alone be useful. Let us submit ourselves under the mighty hand of God and draw nigh unto Him. Draw nigh unto Him.

You know you read there in Corinthians 2nd Corinthians chapter 7 Having therefore these promises dearly beloved let us cleanse ourselves from the filthiness of the flesh and the spirit perfecting holiness in the fear of God. Which promises? Which promises must work this desire in our hearts that we cleanse ourselves that we reject things that God rejects that we despise things that God despises that we love things that God loves that we turn away our hearts from the beggary things of this life. What things are these promises? Well the next bravest chapter last verses tell us it says in verse 17 Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate says the Lord and touch not the unclean thing and I will receive you and I will be a father unto you and ye shall be my sons and daughters says the Lord almighty.

Do you believe that? How plain do you want God to say that if you trust Him and walk out in obedience to His Word because of the faith that you have in Him He shall receive you and you shall be called sons of God children of the most high you shall be begotten born again of the Father born again we know that he that is born of God lives as Christ lived we do not preach sinless perfection but we preach Christ Jesus the hope of glory in us we preach a gospel which is not one of words but of power but you know what for most part of us here we have heard these things before haven't we? we have read this and we have looked at it we've actually sometimes we get so zealous and worked up and we just want it and yes Lord run and somewhere it's like something happens we can't really put our finger on it is it this? is it that? what is it? and I know the Spirit of God is easily grieved we shall do right to go on our knees tonight where did you speak to me and I did not listen to you? where did I lose that sweet communion? where did I start doing my own thing again? where did I think that I know better than you? where did I defraud you from your right to rule and reign my life? and I started making the decisions again where was that?

I think as we sit there in our chairs we all can think oh there now the next thing would stand before us are we willing to make right tonight? are we willing to make right tonight? Revelations 2 verse 1 is a very well known passage chapter 2 verse 2 it says I know thy works and thy labors and thy patience and how they cannot bear them which are evil and thou hast tried them and said unto the apostles that are not and thou found them liars as born with patience and for my name's sake has labored and has not fainted nevertheless I have some word against thee because thou hast left thy first love thou hast left thy first love brothers what does our first love make us do? our first love so constrains us to cast off every weight and sin that so easily beset us to run this race with patience our eyes set our first love just makes us fly out of things to the arms of God our first love doesn't count anything too great to sacrifice our first love looks in the eyes of Christ and say yes I want it doesn't matter what it costs our first love makes us foolish we do foolish things you know God speak to us about the TV we get all zealous about it and grab the damn box and throw it there on the grass and take the big hammer and whoosh beat it into pieces ha there you go

no more devil in my house that's it that's what first love does our first love says oh I stole things I'll give it back and not only will I give back what I've stolen but that which I've forcefully taken I'll repay three times our first love constrains us with zeal to sacrifice everything on the altar of God are you still like that? if you are not like that you are the one God is talking to father that person that you are talking to is me oh God rain righteousness on the earth I will do what you have said to grieve in your spirit in Jesus name

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