

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Lord's day 7.20

Singing: 302:1-3 – 294:1-3 – 235:1-3 – 401:1-4

REVIEW ...

A. The bad news: *For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God* (Rom. 3)

B. The good news: *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son* (John 3:16)

HOW WILL I BE SAVED THROUGH CHRIST?

OR

HOW CAN I BECOME A PARTAKER OF THIS SALVATION IN CHRIST?

A. **Answer from our side is saving faith:** John 3:15; 16, 18, 36, 6:47; 20:31

1. A simple definition of saving faith: *Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon Jesus alone for salvation, as He is offered to us in the Gospel.* (Westminster – H Cat. Q. 21)

a. God sends His captains (preachers) to rebellious Mansoul

b. In His Name they offer peace and pardon upon surrender and return

- see example of this in Isaiah 55:1-9

- take note of 'verbs' describing our response to His message

2. How you respond to Gospel of Jesus Christ is matter of life and death!

a. John 3:36 – 6:47 – Acts 16:30-31

- do not reason these solemn truths away

- instead, *wrestle (!) in prayer* with the **Gospel** of Acts 5:30-32

B. **Answer from God's side is new birth or regeneration** (John 1:13; 3:3-8)

1. This act of God is *secret – mysterious – irresistible – sovereign – powerful*

a. the result of this act is *the creation of new (spiritual) life*

2. God works this *new birth* through His Word: James 1:18; 1 Pet 1:23

a. since God works this 'new birth' through His chosen means of the Word, He commands you to be *busy in and with HIS Word*

F. How are these two (regeneration and faith) related?

1. They are in an **inseparable relationship** (John 5:25)

2. They are in a **cause & effect relationship** with *regeneration the cause and faith the effect*

a. see John 3:5; John 6:44 & 65 – Acts 16:14 – 18:27 – Eph. 1:19-20 – Eph. 2:8 – Phil 1:29 and opposite: 1 Cor. 2:14

b. this 'cause-effect' is also glad tidings (Eph. 2:4-5, 8)

3. They grow into a **conscious relationship** (Matt. 7:20; Col. 1:12-13)

a. though *new birth precedes the new spiritual life* in God's order

b. the *new life precedes the knowledge of new birth* in the experience

CONCLUDING QUESTIONS ...

A. Why did God reveal the truth about the new birth in His Word?

B. Why does God address your consciousness to bring you to conversion?

C. What to pray for when you pray for preachers of the Gospel? Acts 4:29-30

I know not how *this saving faith*
To me He did impart.

Now how believing in His Word,
Wrought peace within my heart.

I know not how the Spirit moves,
Convincing men of sin,
Revealing Jesus through His Word,
Creating faith in Him.

D. W. Whittle