

Born of Water and the Spirit to “*Enter the Kingdom*”

The following is a brief excerpt from Pages 34-35, in *The Open Door* by Lyn Mize:

“Even though the Church as an entity received the Kingdom of Heaven, there will be many Christians who will lose this inheritance just like Israel did because of unfaithfulness and disobedience. Scripture distinguishes between Christians who will *see* the Kingdom of Heaven and Christians who will *enter* the Kingdom of Heaven. “*Enter the Kingdom*” literally means to enter into the King’s dominion and refers to having a responsible position in our Lord’s Kingdom.

“*Seeing the Kingdom*” means to be physically present in the coming millennial Kingdom but having no position of authority. All Christians “*see the Kingdom*” but not all Christians will “*enter the Kingdom.*” The failure of Bible students to see the difference has resulted in the rapid growth of the false doctrine of Lordship Salvation. Numerous Christians equate “enter the Kingdom” with salvation in the evangelical sense, but it is actually related to the Covenant of Works that God has made with man.

John 3:3 (KJV) *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.*

The above Scripture confirms that spiritual rebirth is the one and only criterion for “*seeing the Kingdom.*”

John 3:5 (KJV) *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.*

This Scripture adds the criterion that one must be “*born of water*” in order to “*enter the Kingdom.*” The phrase “born of water” has puzzled numerous students of the Bible and there is much debate over exactly what it means. Many think it means physical birth with the water referring to the amniotic fluid. Others think it means water baptism. The Church of Christ and several other denominations think that water baptism is necessary for salvation in the evangelical sense. Some believe that it means the cleansing that Christ provides by “the washing of water by the word...”

The correct interpretation has to be the cleansing that Christ provides since the grammatical construction only allows for a figurative interpretation of “*born of water.*” Physical birth and water baptism are both literal acts. The second *of* in the verse is not in the original autograph so the first *of* governs the words water and spirit. This means that both objects of the same preposition must either be literal or figurative. Since “born of Spirit” has a figurative meaning, “*born of water*” must also have a figurative meaning. Thus, Ephesians 5:25-27 delineates the meaning of the phrase “*born of water,*” and it definitely refers to the sanctification process that faithful Christians are passing through as they mature in the faith.”

*“25) Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26) That he might **sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,** 27) That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” (Ephesians 5:25-27)*

“Progressive sanctification is the process whereby Christians become Christ like in character, and this means that Christians actually take on the character of God. This can not be accomplished by improving the soulical nature (i.e., the old man) in Christians. It necessitates the difficult process of killing the old nature (i.e., losing the soul) so that the new spirit nature which was born of God can control.

Progressive sanctification does not occur instantaneously as does the new birth experience (positional sanctification), but it takes a lifetime of faithful obedience to the Word of God. This is the “renewing of the mind” in Romans 12:2 and the “perfecting holiness” in II Corinthians 7:1. All Christians experience the new birth (i.e., they are justified), but all Christians are not being sanctified in the current pilgrim walk through the wilderness. It is a fact that all Christians will be finally cleansed and sanctified by the Lord Jesus Christ, but it will be an enforced sanctification for numerous Christians. Believers who voluntarily submit to sanctification in this life will be rewarded with responsible positions in the Kingdom.

Christians who allow the old nature to control their lives will lose rewards at the Judgement Seat of Christ, and they will lose their lives (i.e. souls). In simpler terms, their lives will have been a total waste. When they arrive in the Kingdom in their new bodies, their lives will be totally different in regard to their character, behavior, attitudes and interests. It is then that they will realize the wasted life that they lived in the current pilgrim walk, and there will be much weeping and anguish expressed for their failure to appropriate the promises of God. These “children of the Kingdom” will have lost their inheritance, and there will be much sorrow and grief for their unfaithfulness to the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Mat 8:12 (KJV) But the children of the Kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Mat 22:13 (KJV) Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Mat 25:30 (KJV) And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth

For more information please see **The Kingdom** available at: www.ProphecyCountdown.com. Also, please see pages 150-52 of Pastor Whipple’s **Shock and Surprise: Beyond the Rapture** for a discussion of the literal and symbolic (figurative) meanings of John 3:5. The PDF version of this book can be found at:

www.beyondtherapture.com/bookstore.htm