

# Born of GOD

## 1 Peter 1:3-4

John 3:1-8

1 John 3:1-10



## God's Eternal Purpose

### Before Time Began (John 10:27-29)

- Given to the Son (John 10:27-29)
- Registered in Heaven (Luke 10:20; Revelation 13:8; 17:8)

### Author (1 Peter 1:1)

### A Letter to the Dispersed/Elect (1 Peter 1:1-2)

- Pilgrims - Not our home! (Hebrews 11:13-16; Philippians 3:20-21)
- We live in tents! (2 Corinthians 5:1-3)
- Citizenship (according to Roman thought) (Philippians 3:20-21)

### Saved by a Triune God

- How great a salvation? (Hebrews 2:1-3)
- The power necessary to save even one soul.
  - This gives us an idea of our TOTAL DEPRAVITY - something we do not meditate enough on.

### Our Father Chose Us

- Doctrine of ELECTION: "By the **decree** of God, the Creator of the entire universe, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and some angels are predestined (before time began) to everlasting life, and others are foreordained to everlasting death."
- **FOUNDATIONAL DOCTRINE: Everything** in time proceeds from God choosing "His special people". (1 Peter 2:9)
  - ✘ Get this doctrine wrong and EVERYTHING else you believe about GOD, grace, sin, salvation, **the Gospel**, etc. will be wrong!
- Before time began God **chose** individuals to be His SPECIAL PEOPLE. (Ephesians 1:4; Romans 8:28-30, 33; 11:5-7; Acts 15:18; 2 Timothy 1:9; 2 Thess 2:13; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Revelation 13:8; 17:8)
- THESE He gave to His Son to save. (John 6:37-39, 10:27-30; 17:2, 6, 9, 11, 22, 24; Matthew 1:21)

## Necessity of Rebirth (John 3:1-8)

- ★ When we are born physically we are born sinners! Our minds, emotions, and will are depraved and in bondage to sin, the devil, the world, and our own lusts and desires! (Ephesians 2:1-3)
- (John 3:3) “Most assuredly” - “AMEN! AMEN!” – “I say” this is the TRUTH.  
→ UNLESS you are “born-from-above” you **cannot** see heaven!!
- (John 3:5-6) “Most assuredly, I say to you . . .” FLESH profits NOTHING! (John 6:63; Romans 7:18)
- (John 3:7) “You **must** (*dei* – “it is necessary”) be ‘born-from-above.’”
- (John 3:8) This is not the work of man, but the work of God (the Spirit). See Titus 3:4-7.

## Our Father Begot Us AGAIN! (1 Peter 1:3)

- (Psalm 115:1-3) ALL PRAISE/GLORY goes to God!
  - The “birthing process” starts with the FATHER! The baby has NO SAY in anything of his/her birth.
  - It starts with the FATHER and proceeds by the Father. (Psalm 139:14-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Romans 9:21-24)
- (James 1:18) God begot “**of His own will**”.
- (1 John 3:1) PURE GRACE and LOVE.
- (John 1:12) - What does it mean to “receive Christ”?
  - ❶ Believe on His name – the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - ★ You BELIEVE and SUBMIT to Christ as your LORD (Owner, Ruler, Master) – Romans 10:9.
    - ★ You BELIEVE and PROCLAIM that He (Jesus) is your only Saviour and God’s only Messiah! (1 Peter 2:9; Acts 4:12)
  - ❷ You receive ALL of Christ:
    - ★ KING/LORD – to rule over me.
    - ★ PRIEST – to offer sacrifice and intercede for me. (Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34)
    - ★ PROPHET – to teach me the Word of God. (John 1:1; 1 John 1:1-2)
- (John 1:13) Those who “receive” Him are those “who were born, not of blood (human parents), or by (human desire) or by the will of man (human decision - mine or anyone else), **BUT GOD!**
  - ★ God gives life to whom He pleases! (Matthew 11:25-27; John 17:2)

## Our Salvation Is ALL of God



**ROMANS 8:28-30**

## IF Children then Partakers of the Father's Nature (2 Peter 1:3-4)

- The Creator alone determines a creature's nature.
- Only the Creator can change a creature's nature! (Jeremiah 13:23; 2 Cor 5:17)
- A creature's nature determines . . .
  - **Our appetite.** Disciples "hunger and thirst after righteousness" and feed on the Word of God. (Luke 4:4; Job 23:12; 1 Peter 2:2; Heb 5:12-14; Philip 4:8; Matt 5:6)
  - **Our behavior.** Disciples "practice righteousness" (the righteousness of God) (Leviticus 11:44-45; 19:2; Matt 5:48; 1 Peter 1:13-16; Romans 6:22; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; Hebrews 12:14; 1 John 2:29; 3:6-10)
  - **Our environment.** Disciples have been "delivered from the power of darkness and conveyed into the kingdom of His Son". (Colossians 1:13; Philippians 3:20-21; Ephesians 2:19-22; Heb 12:22-23)
  - **Our association.** Disciples (as new creatures) associate with LIKE KIND. (2 Corinthians 6:14ff; Psalm 1:1-3; Proverbs 1:15; 4:14-15; 13:20; 1 Peter 4:3-5; Ephesians 4:17; 5:8; 1 John 1:7)
- Partakers of the divine nature DO NOT partake in "the corruption (decomposing, rotting with its stench) that is in the world through lust" - see 1 Peter 2:11; Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4.
- Those with the divine nature "have escaped" – something already done!

## NOT MERCY; BUT ABUNDANT MERCY (v. 2)

- ★ Mercy is different from grace!
  - Mercy is NOT receiving what we deserve. This mercy is (eleos {el'-eh-os}) which is "compassion shown to the miserable"! **MEDITATE ON THIS!**
  - Grace is receiving what we do not deserve.
- ★ God **abundantly** pours out His mercy **and** His grace on creatures that in **no** way deserves them!
- ★ God does **NOT** bestow these blessings on everyone!
  - **MEDITATE ON ROMANS 9:15-16**
- Not some but an abundance of mercy. MEDITATE.
- On whom does God continually bestow His mercy . . . (Psalm 103:11, 17; 118:4; Exodus 20:6; Deut 5:9-10; Daniel 9:4; Neh 1:5; 1 Kings 8:23)

## To A LIVING HOPE! (v. 3)

- This HOPE is REAL! It **causes** us to **groan** for the redemption of our bodies. (Romans 8:23-25)
- This HOPE is that this world is NOT all there is! GOD, our Father, has prepared a "city" for us! (Hebrews 11:10, 16; 13:14; Luke 12:32; Philippians 3:20-21)

## Through the LIFE , DEATH and RESURRECTION of His Only Begotten Son. (v. 3)

- NOT ONLY Christ' death and resurrection but also His whole life!
- (John 11:25-26) Because Christ rose we are SURE that we will rise too!
- (1 Corinthians 15:20) Christ, as our HEAD, rose becoming the "Firstfruit" of the resurrection of us all - HIS BODY!

### IF Children Then Heirs (1 Peter 1:4; Romans 8:16-17)

- How does one know if they are a child of God?
  - Those who are led (follow) the Spirit. (Romans 8:14)
  - Those who practice biblical righteousness. (1 John 3:10)
  - Those who AVOID sin (lawlessness). (1 John 3:1-9)
  - Those who love (sacrificially) their brethren. (1 John 3:10, 16; 5:1-2)
  - Those who obey God's commandments. (1 John 2:3-4; 5:3; Matt 7:21)
- If children, then heirs: Next week's sermon.

### IF Children of God, then We Must . . .

- ① Be DILIGENT to make our ELECTION and CALLING sure. (2 Peter 1:10)
  - Many are DECEIVED, being DECEIVED, and will be DECEIVED into believing that they are saved, when they are not! (Matthew 7:21-23; 24:4-5, 11, 24; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Peter 2:1-2; 1 John 2:18; 4:1; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 2 Timothy 3:13)
- ② GOD, and GOD alone, get ALL the GLORY for saving us! We had NOTHING to do with getting saved! (Psalm 115:1; Ephesians 1:6, 9, 12, 14; Philippians 1:14)
- ③ If we say, "I have received Christ", then we must receive ALL that He is – Lord, Saviour, King, Priest, and Prophet – anything LESS we have NOT "received Him" and we are **NOT** "born-from-above" and **NOT** a "child of God". (1 John 3:1-3, 10)
- ④ As partakers of the divine nature (our Father's nature) then we will manifest ourselves as "the children of God". (1 John 3:10)
- ⑤ We must realize that it took an "**abundant mercy**" to save us! For this we must continually "proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light!" (1 Peter 2:9)
- ⑥ We are born into a "living hope" and this hope gives us a reason for living and takes away all fear of death. (Hebrews 11:10, 13-16)