重生(壹)

Regeneration (I)

今天我们来看第十一题,重生。这是圣经中相当大的一个题目,也是神救恩里非常重要的一部节。神救恩里的赦免、洗净、成圣、称义、与神和好,就是我们在前几题所看过的,都是为着重生。神所以赦免我们,洗净我们,使我们得成圣、得称义、得与祂和好,都是为着要重生我们。人是以为,只要我们在神而能得着赦罪,得蒙称义,就没有问题了。但是神的救恩为我们所作的,不只这些。神的救恩不只在我们外面使我们得到这样一个蒙祂悦纳的地位,还要在我们里面重生我们,使我们得着一个能讨祂喜悦的生命。

Regeneration is a great subject in the Scriptures and a very important part of God's salvation. The aspects of God's salvation in the previous chapters—forgiveness, cleansing, sanctification, justification, and reconciliation with God—are all related to regeneration. God forgives us, cleanses us, sanctifies us, justifies us, and reconciles us to Himself so that He can regenerate us. Man assumes that he would be free from all problems if he only received the forgiveness of sins and was justified before God. But the salvation that God accomplished for us does not stop with these items. God's salvation not only grants us an **outward position** of being accepted by Him but also involves our **inward regeneration**, through which we receive a life that pleases Him.

壹 重生的需要

I. The Need of Regeneration

(一)"你们必须重生"一"人若不重生,就不能见神的国。"约翰三章七节三节。

1. "Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God"; "You must be born anew" (John 3:3, 7).

主耶稣说,我们必须重生。因为"人若不重生,就不能见神的国"。神的国乃是神掌权的范围。在这范围里,神通行祂的旨意,发挥祂的自己,一切都是属灵的,一切都是属天的,属肉体和属地的人不能领会—就是"不能见"的意思—其中的事;要能领会,就必须重生。

The Lord Jesus said that we must be born anew because unless we are born anew, we cannot see the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is the realm where God rules. In this realm God does His will and manifests all that He is, and everything is spiritual and heavenly. The fleshly and the earthly cannot understand what occurs in this realm. This is the meaning of cannot see. To understand, one must be born anew.

每一种生命,都是一界——界也就是一国—都有它的范围,都有它的界限,其中的事,只有那种生命能懂得。比方,鸟的生命有鸟生命的范围,要懂得其中的事,只有鸟的生命性能作得到。鸟界之外的东西,既没有鸟的生命,就没有鸟生命的性能,所以也不能懂得鸟国的事。照样,神的生命更有一个范围,这个范围,就是神的国,其中的事,只有神的生命能懂得。人是神国之外的东西,既没有神的生命,就没有神生命的性能,所以怎能懂得神国神界的事?若要能,就必须重生,就必须得着神的生命。

Every kind of life is a sphere, a kingdom with its own realm and boundaries, and the things in it can be apprehended only by those who possess its life. For example, the bird life exists in its own realm, and only those with a bird's life and nature understand this realm. Those who are outside the sphere of birds cannot understand the things of the bird kingdom because they do not have the life of a bird or the function of a bird's life. In the same way, the life of God has its own realm. This realm is the kingdom of God, and the things in it can be understood only by those who possess the life of God. Since man is outside the kingdom of God and without the life of God and the function of God's life, he cannot understand things that belong to the kingdom and sphere of God. In order to see the kingdom of God, he must be regenerated and obtain the life of God.

没有那一界的生命,就不能懂得那一界范围里的事。要低级一界的生命,懂得高级一界范围里的事,更是不可能。何况神的生命比人的生命高得许多!低级一界的人,要懂得神高级一界的事,就必须有神高级一界的生命。要有这生命,就必须重生。

No one can understand the things of a particular realm apart from the life of that realm. It is also impossible for the life of a lower realm to comprehend things that belong to a higher realm. How high is God's life

compared to man's life! In order for man, who belongs to a lower realm, to understand the things of God's higher realm, he must obtain the life of God's higher realm. To possess this life, he must be regenerated.

人和神根本是两个不同的生命,在两个不同的范围,两个不同的国界里。人界里的人,要进到神国里,神界里,就必须有神的生命。人若有神的生命,自然就在神国里有分。人要有神的生命,就必须重生。

Man and God have two fundamentally different lives in two different realms, two different kingdoms. In order for man in the human sphere to enter into the kingdom of God or the sphere of God, he must have the life of God. If a man has the life of God, he will share in the kingdom of God spontaneously. To possess the life of God, one must be born anew.

许多人以为,人所以需要重生,是因为人坏。岂知不管人是好是坏,都需要重生。我们需要重生,不是仅仅因我们的生命是坏的,乃是因我们的生命不是神的生命。纵然我们的生命是好的,还是人的生命,不是神的生命,没有神生命的性能,不能懂属神的事,更不能行属神的事。所以就是我们的生命一点毛病都没有,我们也需要得着神的生命,也需要重生,使我们能懂得神界的事,能有分于神的国。

Many presume that a human being needs to be born anew because he is evil. However, we need to be regenerated whether we are good or evil. We need to be born again because our life is not the life of God, not merely because our life is evil. Even if our life is good, it is still only human. It is not the life of God, it does not have the function of God's life, and it cannot understand or do the things of God. Therefore, even if our life is faultless, we still need to be born anew, to receive the life of God, so that we can understand the things of God's realm and participate in the kingdom of God.

(二)"人若不是从···灵生的,就不能进神的国。从肉体生的,就是肉体,从灵生的,就是灵。"约翰三章五至六节原文。

2. "Jesus answered, Truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:5-6).

我们人的生命不只不能懂得神国神界的事并,且是属乎肉体的,因为是从肉体生的。不管我们自己觉得我们的生命如何,按实际说,我们的生命是属乎肉体的,是出乎肉体的。属乎肉体,出乎肉体的,就是肉体。肉体是: 1 "在罪孽里生的,"(诗五一5,)出于罪的; 2 "卖给罪了,"(罗七14,)属于罪的; 3 "没有良善,"(罗七18,)只有罪恶; 4 在属神的事上"软弱"、"无益";(罗八3,约六63;)5 "坏到极处,"(耶十七9,)无可救药; 6 "与神为仇,…不服神的律法,也是不能服,而且…不能得神的喜欢;"(罗八7~8;)7 "与神的生命隔绝了,"(弗四18,原文,)和神无分无关; 8 不能改变。世人多是以为人可改好。尤其是中国的礼教家主张人能修改。但是神在圣经里用古实人(就是非洲黑人)的皮肤和豹的斑点这两件不能改变的东西,来比方人不能改变。祂说,这两件东西若能改变,人的肉体,或说肉体的人,便能改变了。(耶十三23。)

Our human life is incapable of understanding the things of God's realm and God's kingdom, and it is also of the flesh since it was born of the flesh. It does not matter how we feel about our own life; in actuality, our life is of the flesh and comes from the flesh. Whatever is of the flesh and comes from the flesh is flesh. The flesh is "brought forth in iniquity" (Psa. 51:5), originating from sin; it is "sold under sin" (Rom. 7:14) and belongs to sin; in it "nothing good dwells" (v. 18), and there is only evil; it is "weak" and "profits nothing" pertaining to the things of God (8:3; John 6:63); it is "incurable" (Jer. 17:9); it is at "enmity against God," "not subject to the law of God, for neither can it be," and it "cannot please God" (Rom. 8:7-8); it is "alienated from the life of God" (Eph. 4:18), having nothing to do with God; and it is unchangeable. Most people think that man can change for the better. This is especially true of the Chinese teachers of ethics who suggest that human beings can be reformed. Yet in the Bible, God uses two unchangeable things, the skin of a Cushite and the spots of a leopard, to illustrate how man cannot be changed. In essence, God is saying that if these two things could be changed, the flesh of man, or the man of flesh, could also be changed (Jer. 13:23).

黑人的皮肤是不能变白的。你就是用白漆把它漆白了,它的本身还是黑的,连它里边的肉也是黑的。 亲爱的朋友,你想要把你自己改好么?你无论怎样改,都不过是在你外面擦白粉,你里面仍是黑的。 你想你能不犯罪么?就是你能在外面不犯罪,你里面还是有罪的。你能改你外面的行为,却不能改你里面的性情。豹的斑点也是无法改变的。你可以给豹穿上一身毫无斑点的衣服,但它的斑点仍是毫无

改变的遮盖在里面。你可以在你外面文饰改装你自己,但你里面依然是原样。你可以改你外面的形状,却不能改你里面的性质。

However, the skin of a Cushite will never turn white. Even if the skin were painted white, it would still be essentially black. We all have considered changing ourselves for the better. In whatever way we might change, however, it would merely be like applying white paint on the outside. Inside we would still be dark. We also think that we can stop sinning. Even if we do not sin outwardly, we would still be sinful inwardly. We may succeed in changing our outward behavior, but we cannot alter our inward nature. The leopard's spots also cannot be changed. We may clothe a leopard with a spotless garment, but its spots will be untouched underneath. We may decorate and dress ourselves up on the outside, but inwardly we are still the same. We may change our outward form, but we cannot change our inward essence.

人的肉体,或说肉体的人,是不能改的。外面无论能改得多少,里面的性质也不能改变丝毫。无论怎样改,仍是肉体。肉体就是肉体,是不能变作灵的。灵必须是从灵生的。只有从灵生的,才是灵。要从灵生,就必须重生。

The man of the flesh, or the fleshly man, is unchangeable. No matter the amount of outward adjustment, our inward nature cannot be changed. Regardless of correction, a man of flesh is still the flesh. The flesh is the flesh, and it will never become the spirit. Only spirit can be born of the Spirit, and only what is born of the Spirit is spirit. To be born of the Spirit, there is the need of regeneration.

神的国既是属神的,就是属灵的,因为神是灵。一个性质属灵的国,属肉体的人是不能有分的。人要有分于这属灵的国,就必须有与它性质相同的灵,所以必须从灵生,必须重生。

Since the kingdom of God is of God, it is also spiritual, because God is Spirit. Fleshly man can never have a part in a spiritual kingdom. In order for man to partake of this spiritual kingdom, he must have a spirit that is born of the Spirit. Therefore, he must be regenerated.

参读: 圣经要道,第十一题: 重生

Reference: Crucial Truths in the Holy Scriptures, Vol. 1, Ch. 11 Regeneration