“Born Again Christians”

John 3:1-8

Introduction:
A. “Born again Christians” is a popular phrase these days.
   1. The only kind the Bible knows anything about.
   2. Usually today associated with some kind of mystical experience.
B. “Born again” is just another way to refer to salvation.
   1. 1 Peter 1:18-23: “redeemed” (18); “purified” (22); “born again” (23).
   2. Can say same thing differently: Suit at cost; Suit at half price etc.
C. New Birth said to consist of two elements:

Discussion:
I. The Spirit
A. A spiritual birth rather than a fleshly one.
   1. Hard for Nicodemus to understand. (v. 4)
   2. Lord explains it (v. 5-8).
      a. Describes the part of man born again - “so is everyone”, not “so is new birth”.
      b. Does not describe some mysterious process.
B. Born of the Spirit through the agency of gospel.
   1. Jesus simply state fact without giving details.
   2. The details are supplied by various New Testament references.
      b. Begotten by the gospel. (1 Cor. 4:15).
II. The Water.
A. Water is considered to be figurative by many.
   1. A metaphor?
      a. Two kinds: self-explanatory (Lk. 13:31,32) or explained (John 7:38,39).
      b. Why is “Spirit” not also a metaphor?
      c. If so, what does it represent? Butter-milk? Lemonade?
   2. Natural birth?
      a. What puzzled Nicodemus. Jesus refutes the idea. (vs. 3-6)
      b. Both “water” & “Spirit” part of being “born again” (comp. vs. 3 & 5).
      c. Makes “water” of natural birth condition of salvation.
   3. If real water, how from above? Like John’s baptism. (Lk. 20:3-8).
B. Water baptism is connected to salvation. (1 Pet. 3:20-21; Acts 8:36-38)

Conclusion:
A. A born again Christian is one who obeys the gospel in water baptism.
B. A born again Christians walks in a new life. (Rom. 6:4)