

## THE BIBLE VIEW

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### Citizenship of Heaven Fraud

*Bill Brinkworth*

*“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” Mat. 7:21-23*

Many illegal American residents are being found guilty of illegal voting and committing voter fraud. One woman was recently convicted of the felony and is serving ten years in prison for her illegal voting. The citizen of Mexico had been convicted because of her voting in the 2008, 2012 and 2016 presidential elections.

The illegal voter managed to steal the identity of a real citizen and use that identification to help vote a government official into office. She is one of many guilty of attempting to have a say in a government she is not even a citizen of.

As dishonest as that is, there are many attempting to do the same thing by making themselves and others believe that

they are future citizens of Heaven, yet are not. They talk like a Christian, go to places a Christian should go, act like a Christian and even carry a Bible proudly. They make their opinion about the things of God known as if they have authority and right to do so. However, with all their charades and appearances of religious activities, they are not Christians at all.

The Bible even declares that there are so many of these impostors, that they are the majority. The way to having the promise to Heaven is not the widely accepted way.

*“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” Matthew 7:13-14*

Heaven is not obtained by doing good works which most false religions promote. No one can earn Heaven. Unless one does what God commands one must do, one will never spend eternity with God.

God’s way of getting to Heaven is first to recognize one is a sinner. Despite what so many believe about themselves, there is none that are good. All have sinned and because of their iniquities cannot go to Heaven.

*“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” Romans. 3:23*

*“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:” Rom. 3:10*

Once one realizes what he is in God's eyes, a sinner, the next realization needs to be to understand that there is nothing anyone can do to get to get rid of all one's sins. However, God knows what we are, and gave us a way to escape Hell.

God sent His only Son, Jesus, whose sacrificial death is the only payment for our sins He will accept. No one's good works or deeds are sufficient to pay for their sins.

*"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9*

When one finally understands who he is and trusts that Christ's payment is enough to pay for all sins, there is one remaining step that must be done to have God's promise of eternity with Him. That is to ask to be forgiven and saved from Hell.

*"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Rom. 10:9*

*"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Rom. 10:13*

After one has believed what God says about his sinful situation and trusted Christ's sacrifice, he is saved, or as the Bible describes it, "born again." He then can know he will one day be a citizen of Heaven and will not be an imposter as so many are. His Christianity will be real and he will not be guilty of the heavenly felony of fraud.

***“To be almost saved is to be totally lost!”*** — *Unknown*

## **“Born of Water”**

*Bill Brinkworth*

*“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. 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5 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. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.”*

*John 3:3-7*

The religious Nicodemus, although he had quite a lot of knowledge of the Word of God and certainly participated in many religious rites, was missing an important ingredient that would keep him from Heaven when he died. He needed a second “birth” to have the assurance of eternity with the Father. When Nicodemus approached Jesus, Christ informed the Pharisee that he must be “born of water” AND have a spiritual birth.

There has been some question as to what “born of water” means. Many incorrectly hold that it is referring to water baptism. There are also other thoughts about what it means.

The Bible makes it clear that “born of water” is referring to the natural birth. When a mother cries, “My water has broken,” shortly after that a child is delivered from the amniotic water where the baby safely resided inside his mother for many months. This is the “born of water” to which these verses refer.

Here are many reasons why “born of water” can only be describing the first, natural birth that every living person experiences:

- Verse three specifies that another birth is required to get to Heaven: “born again.” This implies that there is a previous birth that all have. It is the natural birth. Substituting “born of water” with water baptism or any other idea of what it means does not even make any sense according to what other Scriptures teach and to the context of what is being spoken of here.
- Verse four indicates even Nicodemus thought that Jesus was referring to the natural birth. Nicodemus questioned, “... How can a man be born when he is old ...” There is no way that the religious leader was referring to water baptism or anything else other than the natural birth that ages a person (“... when he is old”) in this verse.
- Verse five mentions again that there are two births: “born of water” (natural) “AND of the “Spirit” (spiritual). If one believes that “born of water” is referring to baptism or the understanding the Word of God, that “birth” becomes a good work. Good works cannot get anyone to Heaven (Eph. 2:8-9).

- “Be born” (“gennao”: Greek) in verse five, means “procreate [properly, of the father, but by extension of the mother]; figuratively, to regenerate: bear, beget, be born, bring forth, conceive, be delivered of.” It is applied to the natural and spiritual birth.
- “Water” in verse five figuratively and literally means water. It cannot have any connotation to being knowledge of the Word of God, as some claim it to mean.
- “Ver. 5,6: “Flesh at its best can only produce flesh. We must become spiritual to enter the spiritual kingdom of Jesus. It is inevitable that we must be born again, or else remain strangers to the things of God. Every man must be born twice or die twice. Let this never be forgotten.” — *C. H. Spurgeon*
- Verse six reiterates that there are two different births: flesh and Spirit. When “Spirit” is referenced in these verses it is with capital letters as it is talking about an individual: the Spirit of God. One can only personally know the Spirit of God when they are “born” into His family. The natural man cannot have a personal relationship with God because he is not saved from his sins until he is born again.
- “Flesh” (“sarx”: Greek), in verse six, is referring to the “meat under the skin.”
- Verse seven reinforces that all, even a religious individual such as the Pharisee Nicodemus, need to have another birth experience. This assumes that all living creatures have the first, natural birth. It would not make sense that this first birth could have anything to do with being baptized or knowing the

Word of God (although knowing the Word of God is essential for a spiritual birth to occur), as some teach.

Every person is born the same way — from their mother. That natural birth is not enough to get anyone to Heaven. An additional spiritual birth is required to get one there.

This spiritual birth happens when one first realizes he is a sinner and realizes he is bound for Hell because of his sins. To change destinations to be with God in His Heaven, one must believe and trust that there is nothing one can do to get rid of the wages of their sin — an eternity in the Lake of Fire.

There is, however, one that has already paid for our sins. That is Jesus. He died on the Cross, not for anything He had done, but He died as payment for our sins. When we believe His shed blood is payment for our sin debt and ask Him to be our Saviour, we can have God's promise of eternity with Him. It is then one experiences the spiritual birth. One is then "born-again."

***“There are only two classes of people in this world: the saints (according to the Bible a saved person is a saint) and the ain'ts.”*** — J. Vernon McGee