

## 1 Peter 1:3

Let us remember who the audience of this letter is. This letter is addressed to the chosen exiles of God who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood. This must be remembered as we work our way through 1 and 2 Peter.

## Verse 3

### Doxology

- This verse begins with a doxology. Doxology is from the Greek work doxa which means glory. The ending of “ology” is an oral or written expression. Doxology then refers to the ascribed glory (Psalm 29:1-2) we are to give God in light of His intrinsic glory which is immutable (unchanging). Peter begins this letter after His initial introduction with a doxology in view of God’s mercy in His sovereign election.
- We must remember from whom our salvation begins, the Father. It is according to the will of the Father that we are chosen and given mercy and grace.
- Peter understands the depths and love that the Father has given his people by His own mercy and grace in election. This is not the result of merits or works, but of absolute mercy. The thought of this leads his souls to ascribe the Father glory and praise to which He is due.

### Born Again

The term a “born again Christian” is a term of absolute redundancy. Every Christian is born again. There is not no such thing as a Christian that is not born again. If a person is not born again or regenerated that person is not a Christian, period.

- *Being born again is an absolute necessity and requirement to not only see, but to enter the kingdom*
  - o **John 3:1-7** Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; <sup>2</sup>this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these <sup>[a]</sup>signs that You do unless God is with him.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born <sup>[b]</sup>again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”<sup>4</sup> Nicodemus \*said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born <sup>[c]</sup>again.’
- We are all born naturally into sin. We are stained with original sin which is the imputed sin of our federal head Adam onto every human being that has ever been born after Adam and Eve (**Romans 5:12**). We are by nature deserving of wrath (**Ephesians 2:3**), dead in sins and trespasses (**Ephesians 2:1**), and our hearts are stone.

- Regeneration is a supernatural act from God and not by our flesh.
- The Holy Spirit invades the souls of the elect and changes the disposition of their minds, souls, and wills toward the things God which they previously hated. He removes the heart of stone and gives them a heart of flesh. The one who was dead in sins and trespasses is raised to spiritual life. It is a sovereign act of God.
- In regeneration we are changed and are new creatures (**2 Corinthians 5:17**). This is not turning over a new leaf, but a life changing event by the supernatural work of God. The one who previously hated God and was hostile now begins to have affection and love for Christ.
- *We are as passive in our spiritual birth as we are in a natural birth.*
- Being born again or regenerated is initiated and performed by God and God alone.

The common misconception is that we have to have faith to be born again. This is incorrect in view of the Biblical doctrine of regeneration. We have faith as a result of being born again.

At the heart of the Reformation is this idea:

- **Regeneration proceeds faith!**
- **Faith is the fruit of regeneration, not the cause of it!**
- Our faith doesn't cause us to be born again. We have no faith in our fallen unregenerate state and can only have faith as it is given by God with regeneration.
- If we try to put faith before regeneration, we are asking the fallen, unregenerate creature to do what the Bible says is impossible. That individual in a state of spiritual death cannot elevate themselves to spiritual life or rebirth. This is a sovereign act of God and by God alone. The flesh cannot bring about regeneration.
- In regeneration, God gives as a gift the faith to believe (**Phil 1:29**) so that the one who is born again can take the faith granted to them and place it toward God as the instrumental cause which brings about their justification (sola fide).
- If one has faith, it means that individual has been regenerated and given faith by God. A person's faith does not bring about regeneration, but rather regeneration brings faith which the individual actively puts in God to bring justification.

## Mercy

The reason that the chosen/elect have been chosen and been born again is based solely on mercy. Our election and being born again has nothing to do with us, our decision, our merits, our works, etc. Our election, regeneration, and salvation is simply because of the Father's great mercy!

- **Ephesians 2:1-10** And you <sup>[a]</sup>were dead <sup>[b]</sup>in your trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you formerly walked according to the <sup>[c]</sup>course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. <sup>3</sup>Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, <sup>[d]</sup>indulging the desires of the flesh and of the <sup>[e]</sup>mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. <sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead <sup>[f]</sup>in our transgressions, made us alive together <sup>[g]</sup>with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith; and <sup>[h]</sup>that not of yourselves, *it is the gift of God*; <sup>9</sup>not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

## A living Hope

- The hope of the Bible is different from the hope of the world. The hope of the world wishes on the outcome, but never has any certainty of the outcome. The hope that is spoken of in the Bible concerning the promises of God is an anchor for the soul as the hope that the believer has is guaranteed and certain.
- **Romans 6:4** states that just as Christ has been raised from the dead, the one who is born again has also been raised to the newness of life.
- However, the living hope Peter speaks about is through the resurrection of Christ. We are looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ (**Titus 2:13**)
  - **1 Corinthians 15:20-23** But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in <sup>[a]</sup>Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

We can look at the resurrection of Christ with a greater hope and assurance. Since He was resurrected from the dead as the first fruits, we who are born again have the promise that we shall be resurrected as He was at His coming to finally see hope complete.

At the end of this verse, that speaks of God's sovereign election and mercy in causing us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Christ, what other response can we have than the doxology that starts this verse.....

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”

Theology=Doxology