

The ADDRESSES and LECTURES in this Edition are reprinted from Verbatim Reports.

ADDRESSES AND LECTURES

OF

D. L. MOODY,

WITH A

NARRATIVE OF THE AWAKENING

IN

LIVERPOOL AND LONDON.

(SUPPLEMENTARY ISSUE.)

ADDRESSES AND LECTURES IN THIS VOLUME.

GOD'S HUMAN INSTRUMENTS.
CHRIST SEEKING THE LOST.
SAVED OR LOST.
MAN SEEKING FOR GOD.
THE CALL TO SELF-EXAMINATION.
THE NEW BIRTH.
A SERMON ON ONE WORD.
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VI.

THE NEW BIRTH.

“Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”—JOHN iii. 3.

MUCH less inherit it. He can't even get a glimpse of the kingdom of God except he be born again. I believe that we have the most important subject before us tonight that will ever come before us in this world. I don't believe there is any truth in the whole Bible so important as the truth brought out in the third chapter of the Gospel of John.

It is the A B C of God's alphabet. If a man is unsound on regeneration, he is unsound on everything. That is really the foundation stone; and he must get the foundation right. If he don't, what is the good of trying to build a house? Now, He says plainly, “Except a man be born again.” And although regeneration, or the new birth, is taught so plain in the third chapter of John, I don't believe there is any truth in the whole Bible that the church and the world are so mixed up on, and in such great darkness about, as this great truth in the third chapter of John. There are a great many that are, as it were, like the man that saw men as trees walking. Many Christians do not seem to be just in a mind about this new birth.

BORN A CHRISTIAN.

Only this afternoon, as I was in the inquiry-room, a person came in, and I said, “Are you a Christian?” “Why,” she says, “of course I am.” “Well,” I said, “how long have you been one?” “Oh, sir, I was born one.” “Oh! indeed, then I am very glad to take you by the hand; I congratulate you; you are the first woman I ever met who was born a Christian; you are more fortunate than others; they are born children of Adam.” She hesitated a little, and then tried to make out that, because she was born in England, she was a Christian. There are a great many who have the idea that, because they are born in England or a Christian country, they have been born of the Spirit. Now, in this third chapter of John, the new birth is brought out so plain, that if any one will read it carefully and prayerfully, I think their eyes will soon be opened. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; it remains flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit, and that remains spirit. So, when a man is born of God, he has God's nature. When a man

is born of his parents, he receives their nature, and they received the nature of their parents, and you can trace it back to Eden. We have received the nature of the first Adam, but when a man is born of God, or born from above, or born of the Spirit—that is the way the Holy Ghost puts it in that third verse—he receives God’s nature, and then it is he leaves the life of the flesh for the life of the Spirit.

SATAN GOING TO CHURCH.

Before I go on I want to say one thing: and that is, what this new birth, or being born of the Spirit, is not. A great many think they have been born again because they go to church. A great many say, “Oh, yes, I am a Christian; I go to church every Sabbath.” Let me say here that there is no one that goes to church so regularly in all London as Satan. He is always there before the minister, and he is the last one out of the church. There is not a church in London, or a chapel, but that he is a regular attendant of it. The idea that he is only down in the slums and lanes and alleys of London is a false idea. The idea that he is only in public-houses—I will confess I think he is there, and that he is doing his work very well—but to think that he is only there is a false idea. He is wherever the Word is preached; it is his business to be there, and catch away the seed. He is here tonight. Some of you may go to sleep, but he won’t. Some of you may not listen to the sermon, but he will. He will be watching, and when the seed is just entering into some heart he will go and catch it away. May God rebuke Satan tonight, and may the Word of God fall deep into the hearts of many. May many be called tonight.

A CHRISTIAN BECAUSE BAPTIZED.

Another class say, “Oh, yes, I am a Christian, because I was baptized.” Now, I want to say here that baptism is one thing, and being born again is another. Because a person is baptized, you would not say that that is new birth. Would you call that being born from above? You cannot baptize a man into the kingdom of God. Now, bear that in mind. If I could save men by baptizing them, you would not catch me preaching. I would get water and baptize them; that would be the quickest way. It would be no use to be praying and pleading for men to flee from the wrath of God. But, you

can never get them into the kingdom of God by baptism. Baptism is all right in its place. I am not here crying down church ordinances; I am talking about the new birth, and there are a great many, I believe, being deceived on this one point, that because they have been baptized at some time of their life they have become Christians. But that is not new birth; that is not being born from above and of the Spirit. Do not let Satan deceive you, my friends, on that point, for it is a very important truth; and we want to have every one here tonight to understand, and I hope the Spirit of God will make plain the difference between baptism and conversion, or regeneration, or being born of the Spirit, or being born again.

JOINING THE CHURCH.

There is another class that say, “Oh, yes, I became a Christian when I joined the church—the day when I united with the church.” That isn’t being born again. What is that to do with the new birth, being united with the church on earth? There are a great many united with the church who are on their way to death and ruin. A great many have no hope of eternal life who are members of the church. One of the twelve Christ chose to follow Him turned out a hypocrite and a traitor; he was not loyal to Christ at heart. My friends, don’t just build your hope of heaven upon some profession of your faith; but bear in mind it is the being born of God. Now just let me stop a minute, and you just think, and ask yourselves that question, “Have I been born again?” It is the most solemn question that will ever come before you down here—“Have I been born from above? Have I been born of the Spirit?” It isn’t making some new resolutions. You have made enough of them. That isn’t the new birth. I never met any one who had not made some good resolutions in their life. It isn’t trying to do good. A great many say, “I try to do the best I can and I think it will come out all right.” What is that to do with the new birth and the new creation? It don’t say to him that tries to do the best he can, but to him that believeth or that is born of the Spirit; and “Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

INSTANTANEOUS CONVERSION.

Now, I believe this birth is instantaneous. I have met a great many people who cannot tell the day or the hour of their conversion; but there must have been a time when they passed from death unto life—when they were born of the Spirit.

There must have been a time when their names were written in the Book of Life. They may not be conscious of the day, or the hour, or the week, or the month, or the year; but, my friends, I beg of you to be sure that they have been born of the Spirit. Don't be deceived upon this one truth, because Christ Himself says, "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

As I said before, when I was born of my parents I received their nature, I received the nature of the flesh; and I cannot serve God in the flesh. "God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." And before a man can worship God he must be born of God; he must be born of the Spirit. Then with this new birth, with this new life he can serve God. Then the yoke is easy; then the burden is light. A man may as well try to fly to the moon as to serve God before he has been born of the Spirit. It is utterly impossible. The natural man is at enmity against God; his natural heart is at war with God; it always has been, and it always will be. And not only that, but you cannot make it better. Somebody said that God never mends. God creates anew; therefore don't be trying to patch up that old Adam nature. God says, "It shall never come into My presence." Therefore God has just set it aside. But He tells us how we are to come into His presence, and how we are to get into His kingdom. This is worthy to be borne in mind. You cannot educate men into it. That is what the world is trying to do. But he that climbeth up by some other way than the Lord's way the same is a thief and a robber. You had better be born into it in God's way.

FOREIGNERS HAVE NO RIGHT TO COMPLAIN.

We have a law in America that no man shall be President of the United States that has not been born on American soil. We have a great many Englishmen come to America; but I have never heard one complain about that law. We have a great many Germans, Scotchmen, Irishmen, and Welshmen, in fact men from all parts of the world, who come to America, and yet I have never heard one complain about that law. They say America

has the right to say who shall be President. I come here to your country, and I do not complain because you have a Queen to reign over you. What right have I to complain? Has not England a right to say who shall rule it, and who shall be its Queen? Foreigners have no right to interfere. And I would like to ask you this question, Has not God a right to say who shall come into His kingdom, and how we shall come? Now, my friend, God tells us here we are to come into His kingdom by the new birth. We must be born from above, born of the Spirit, and then we get a nature that goes out towards God. If you take a drunken man, and put him on the very pavement of heaven, he will not be happy there. The drunkard doesn't want heaven. What is he to do there? He has no whiskey to drink there, and he has none of his old companions. What is he to do? He would say, "This is hell to me. I don't want to sit here." A man that cannot spend one Sabbath on earth among God's people, what is he to do with that eternal Sabbath, with those that have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb? A man must have a spiritual nature before he wants to go to heaven. Heaven cannot have any attractions to a man until he is born out of heaven of the Spirit.

A WORD FOR THE MORALISTS.

Now let us go back to this man that Christ said these words here to. I often rejoice He didn't say this to that woman at the well, nor to that woman Mr. Sankey has been singing about tonight. If He had said to them, people would have said, "Oh, that poor woman needs to be converted; but I am a moralist; I don't need to be converted. Regeneration will do for harlots, thieves, and drunkards, but we moralists do not need it." But who did Christ say it to? He said it to Nicodemus. Who was he? He belonged to the house of bishops. He would have been a bishop if he had been here. Nicodemus stood very high; he was one of the church dignitaries; he stood as high as any man in Jerusalem, except the high priest himself. He belonged to the seventy rulers of the Jews; he was a doctor of divinity, and taught the law. There is not one word of Scripture against him; he was a man that stood out before the whole nation as of pure and spotless character. What does Christ say to him? "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." I can see a scowl on his forehead. He says, "What do you mean by being born again—born from above, born of the

Spirit? Now I am old, can I a second time enter my mother's womb, and be born again? "Jesus saith, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water, and of the Spirit, he cannot see the kingdom of God." He didn't take back what He had said, but he just repeated it—"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." I can just imagine Nicodemus was like tens of thousands of men in London today. The moment you talk to them about regeneration or conversion, there is a scowl on their forehead. They say, "I don't understand it." Of course, the natural man doesn't understand spiritual things. It is a matter of revelation. I hope God will reveal Himself to many a soul here tonight. A great many men try to investigate and find out God. Suppose you spend a little of your time in asking God to reveal Himself to you.

A TALK IN THE SMOKING-ROOM.

I heard, some time ago, of some commercial travelers who went to hear a man preach. They came back to the hotel, and were sitting in the smoking-room, talking, and they said the minister did not appeal to their reason, and they would not believe anything they could not reason out. There was an old man sitting there listening, and he said to them, "You say you won't believe anything you can't reason out?" "No, we won't." The old man said, "As I was coming on the train, yesterday, I noticed some sheep and cattle and swine and geese, all eating grass. Now, can you tell me by what process that same grass was turned into feathers, hair, bristles, and wool?" "Well, no, we can't just tell you that." "Do you believe it is a fact?" "Oh, yes, it is a fact." "I thought you said you would not believe anything you could not reason out?" "Well, we can't help believing that; that is a fact we see before our eyes." "Well," said the old man, "I can't help but believe in regeneration, and a man being converted, although I cannot explain how God converted him." I have no doubt, if a man spoke about this to me 21 years ago, I should have said it was all Greek, and that I did not understand what the man was talking about. There may be a good many in this hall tonight wondering what that American is talking about. Born again; born of the Spirit! I do not understand it. But I understand it now (and I can call hundreds of witnesses here)—why? Because I have been born of the Spirit.

THE GREAT TEACHER'S ILLUSTRATION.

Now, the illustration which Christ used to Nicodemus was the wind. "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and no man knoweth whence it cometh nor whither it goeth." Now, you cannot see the spirit of God work in this audience; but I hope and pray He may be working now in the hearts of many, convincing them of sin! Do you believe more than ever that you are a sinner? Well, that is the work of the Holy Ghost. The devil never told you you are a sinner; he tries to make you believe you are good enough. If you believe tonight that you have sinned against God, that is the work of the Holy Ghost. He is here tonight at work. We cannot see Him, but there are a great many who know He is here. Suppose I should say I don't believe in the wind, and that it must be all imagination. I have lived thirty-seven years, and have never seen the wind. No one ever saw the wind. It is all imagination; it is folly for men to talk about the wind. I can just imagine that boy there saying, "Why, I know more than that man; I know there is wind, for it blew my hat off this very day into the mud; and I have often felt it blowing in my face." My friends, you have never felt the wind more than I have felt the Spirit of God. You have never seen the effects of the wind more than I have seen the effects of the Spirit of God, and of the workings of the Holy Ghost, and there are hundreds of witnesses here tonight who would testify the same thing.

AN APPEAL TO THE DRUNKARD.

It may be that I am talking now to some poor drunkard here. When he comes into his house, his children listen, and hear by the footfall that their father is coming home drunk, and the little things run away and hide from him as if he was some horrid demon. His wife begins to tremble. Many a time has that great, strong arm been brought down on her weak, defenceless body. Many a day has she carried about marks from that man's violence. He ought to be her protector, support, and stay; but he has become her tormenter. His home is like hell upon earth; there is no joy there. There maybe one such here tonight who hears the good news that he can be born again, and receive a nature from heaven, and receive the Spirit of God. God can give him power to hurl the infernal cup from him. God will give him grace to trample Satan under his feet, and the drunkard will then

become a sober man. Go to that house three months hence, and you will find it neat and clean. As you draw near that home you hear singing; not the song of the drunkard; that is gone; all things have become new. He has been born of God, and is singing one of the songs of Zion:

“Rock of ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.”

Or perhaps he is singing that good old hymn that his mother taught him when he was a little boy:

“There is a fountain filled with blood,
Drawn from Immanuel’s veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains.”

He has become a child of God, an heir of heaven. His children are climbing up his knee, and he has his arms round their neck. That dark home is now changed into a little Bethel on earth. God dwells there now. Yes, God has done all that, and that is regeneration. May God convert the drunkard! I hope many a drunkard will be converted tonight. Christians, lift up your hearts for the poor drunkards of London. If they try to lead a better life, One mighty to save, Christ the Lord, will give them the victory; for, strong as drink may be, His grace is stronger. May the Christians make haste and tell the glad news to the drunkards of London!

THE WORTH OF GOOD RESOLVES.

Then some of you may have been saying, “I wish Mr. Moody would tell us how we are to become Christians; for he says that we cannot be Christians by trying to do good and by making new resolutions.” Many a time you have been at a meeting like this, and have resolved to turn over a new leaf, and you may now form another good resolution. If you do, you will break it. I would not give that for all your resolutions. What are you going to do? If it is a new birth you are to have, you cannot create life. Can you bring life to a dead fly? All the wise men in London cannot do it. God alone is the author of life; and if you have new birth, it must be God’s work. When the Jubilee Singers were in the north of England my family

went to see them, and my little boy asked why they didn't wash the black off their faces. I told him it was because they were born black. The Ethiopian cannot change his skin, nor the leopard his spots. You cannot save yourself. There is a man dying—can you put new life into him? Or can you raise up a dead body by saying, “Young man, arise”? That is the work of God. Your souls are dead in trespasses and sin. May the Lord Jesus Christ speak life. God said, “Let there be light; and there was light. And if He says, “Let there be life, there will be life.

THE BEGGAR AND THE PRINCE OF WALES.

I imagine some of you will say, “I haven't anything to do.” Well, you haven't. Salvation has been worked out for you by another. Many go all round the world in search of honor or possessions. Salvation is worth thousands of times more; but you don't get it that way. God has but one price for salvation. Do you want to know what it is? It is without money and without price. Rowland Hill said that most auctioneers found they had hard work to get the people up to their price, but that he had hard work to get people down to his. “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life.” Who will have it tonight? I say to you, young man, will you have that gift tonight? Suppose I was going over London Bridge, and saw a poor, miserable beggar, bare-footed, coatless, hatless, with no rags hardly to cover his nakedness, and right behind him, only a few yards, was the Prince of Wales with a bag of gold, and the poor beggar was running away from him as if he was running away from a demon, and the Prince of Wales was hallooing, “Oh, beggar, here is a bag of gold!” Why, we should say the beggar had gone mad, to be running away from the Prince of Wales with the bag of gold. Sinner, that is your condition. The Prince of Heaven wants to give you eternal life, and you are running away from Him. “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life.” Then you say, “If I have nothing to do, what is going to become of me? If it is not by working in earnest, how am I to be saved?”

THE CHEAP AND SIMPLE REMEDY.

It is God's work entirely how you are to be saved. I will tell you; Scripture will tell you—that is better. Take the illustration Christ used to

Nicodemus; you could not have a better. He took him to the remedy:—
“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” Now there is the remedy. How am I to be saved? - By looking for life, eternal life; just by looking. It’s very cheap, isn’t it? Very simple, isn’t it? Little girl, just look away to the Lamb of God tonight and be saved. What says the great wilderness preacher? “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world.” You might say the whole plan of salvation is in two words — Giving; Receiving: God gives; I receive.

MR. MOODY AS AN ARMY CHAPLAIN.

I remember, after one of our terrible battles—I was in the army, tending soldiers—and I had just laid down one night, past midnight, to get a little rest, when a man came and told me that a wounded soldier wanted to see me. I went to the dying man; he called me chaplain, but I was not. He said, “Chaplain, I wish you to help me to die.” I said, “I would help you to die if I could. I would take you on my shoulders and carry you into the kingdom of God if I could; but I cannot. I can tell you of One that can.” And I told him of Christ being willing to save him; and how Christ left heaven and came into the world to seek and to save that which was lost. I just quoted promise after promise, but all was dark, and it almost seemed as if the shades of eternal death were gathering around his soul. I could not leave him, and at last I thought of this third chapter of John, and I said to him, “Look here, I am going to read to you now a conversation that Christ had with a man that went to Him when he was in your state of mind, and inquired what he was to do to be saved.” I just read that conversation to the dying man, and he lay there with his eyes rivetted upon me, and every word seemed to be going home to his heart, which was open to receive the truth. When I came along down to the verse where it says, “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life,” the dying man cried, “Stop, sir. Is that there?” “Yes, it is all here.” Then he said, “Won’t you please read it to me again?” I read it the second time. “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth in Him should

not perish, but have eternal life.” The dying man brought his hands together, and he said, “Bless God for that. Won’t you please read it to me again?” I hope you will pardon me for reading it the third time, but I want the Spirit of God to impress it on your hearts tonight. “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” I read the next verses; “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

THE DYING SOLDIER.

I read through the whole chapter, but long before the end of it he had closed his eyes. He seemed to lose all interest in the rest of the chapter, and when I got through it his arms were folded on his breast, he had a sweet smile on his face; remorse and despair had fled away. His lips were quivering, and I leaned over him, and heard him faintly whisper from his dying lips, “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” He opened his eyes, and fixed his calm, deathly look on me, and he said, “Oh, chaplain, that is enough; that is all I want.” And in a few hours he pillowed his dying head upon the truth of those two verses, and rode away on one of the Saviour’s chariots, and took his seat in the kingdom of God. Oh, sinner, you can be saved tonight if you will. Look and live. May God help every lost soul here tonight to look on the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world.