

## CHAT WITH THE CHAPLAIN

What do you think about the word 'renewal'? There are parallels to this ..... regeneration; conversion; transformed; new birth; new man; new creature; and of course, born again. The 'born again' comes into play in John 3:3 where the Pharisee Nicodemus decides to visit Jesus under cover of darkness so that his buddies won't know. Nicodemus proceeds to question Jesus about His teaching and His signs, and rather than answer old Nic's questions directly, Jesus does a little soft shoe to the side and says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." To paraphrase Nicodemus, he's now saying, "What's up with this --- how is this possible?" In John 3:5,6, Jesus replies, "Truly, 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 (Holy Spirit) is spirit," Someone has said that as believers, we are not just physical beings having a temporary spiritual reality, but just the reverse. Something to think about. Anyhow, something, or I should say several somethings happen when someone is 'born again'. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away, behold, new things have come." There's that 'new creature' parallel I mentioned earlier. Now we can slide sideways into 'renewal'. 2 Corinthians 4:16 says "Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day." Can I see a show of hands out there of all those in decay mode? I didn't think I was the only one. When we come to the subject of the 'new man' or the 'new creature', there has been disagreements about what that means on a personal level. This is yet another subject that countless books have been written about, but we'll poke a stick at it. Some have said that now that you're saved (born again), and you are a 'new creature in Christ', then there's no room for sin in your life. Others have said that the 'newness' is spiritual in nature, that we still wear sin tainted bodies and live in a sin tainted world, and that there's a process involved in becoming more Christ—Like. I'm landing on this side of the argument. Philippians 1:6 says, "For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the Day of Christ Jesus."

I have to say that knowing that Jesus is still working on me (us) is really encouraging. That the Almighty God Of the universe is willing to mess with us in the first place is nothing short of amazing. Eventually, God will provide a new Robe of righteousness for everyone who has put their trust in Christ. Check out Mark 2:22, where Jesus is saying, “ And No one puts new wine (new man) into old wineskins; otherwise the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and The skins as well; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.” The fresh wineskins are a picture of the robe that will Enable a saved sinner to stand before a Holy God, with the righteousness based on Christ’s sacrifice. A new garment on A new man. One man has said that Jesus received something that he didn’t deserve so that we could receive something We don’t deserve.

Back in ancient history ( the 60’s ), there was a band called the Chambers Brothers who recorded a song Called “People Get Ready”-----

People get ready, there’s a train a—comin’  
You don’t need no baggage, you just get on board  
All you need is faith to hear the diesels hummin’  
You don’t need no ticket, you just thank the Lord

People get ready for the train to Jordan  
Picking up passengers coast to coast  
Faith is the key, open the doors and board them  
There’s room for all of the loved and lost

You can bet all you own that God’s Train is a—comin’. Faith + nothing is all you need --- Jesus, our ‘Conductor’, has your ticket, Are you ready?

Wanted : More bikers in Heaven!!

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