

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 20:1-17 & John 3:1-13

SINGING: 265:1-3 – 141:1, 3 – 384:1-5 – 92:1, 3, 5 – 73:1-5

Opening Observations:

- To partake of Lord's Supper requires spiritual life (Confession of Faith, art. 35)

- Preparatory consists therefore in examination
 - About whether we are spiritually alive (our state)

 - About whether we have spiritual health (our condition)

THE NEW BIRTH

I. It is worked by the Almighty God

II. It brings clear changes in the human heart

III. It enables a person to repent and believe

I. THE NEW BIRTH IS WORKED BY ALMIGHTY GOD

A. Jesus clearly taught this in John 3:8 (see Lord's Day, q. 8)

1. Entry into heaven is barred without the new birth

2. Similarly the entry to Lord's Supper is barred without new birth

B. To be 'born again' is a *direct and personal act of God in a dead sinner*

1. Words that describe this act: mysterious – irresistible – sovereign – powerful – personal – gracious (see Canons III/IV, art 12, 13)

2. why is this new birth so important that Jesus taught *except ye be born again, ye cannot enter into the kingdom of God*

II. THE NEW BIRTH BRINGS CLEAR CHANGES IN THE HUMAN HEART

A. Each change is worked *by Holy Spirit using the Word of God*

1. He penetrates past *gates of hell* of indifference, resistance, enmity

2. What changes are we thinking of?
- a. changes in how you think about God – yourself – sin (repentance)

 - b. changes in how you view Christ and His work (faith)
 - Spirit's work is to glorify Christ to the heart of elect sinners

 - not only discovers Christ as the hope but He also brings to faith

 - c. changes in how you view holiness (obedience/conversion)
 - Spirit's convicting work of sin brings conversion work in all aspects of our life

APPLICATION

A. A message for the *trembling hearts*

B. A message for the *seeking and longing hearts*

C. A message for the *un-assured hearts*

D. A message for the *unsaved hearts*