

mission, You Must Be Born Again, because it seems to apply to people like her.

But Jesus spoke those words to Nicodemus, the Hebrew equivalent of a college professor, a federal judge, and a bishop all in one. Nicodemus was everything that the shady lady by the well was not. Yet it was to this cultivated, respected religious leader that Jesus declared, "You must be born again."

Why did Jesus tell Nicodemus that? The answer is simple. Like all of us, Nicodemus was born in sin, so he needed a second birth--a spiritual birth. He needed to change the focus of his faith from religion to Jesus (3:15). Only Christ could provide forgiveness and eternal life.

If Nicodemus, the best that religion could produce, needed to be born again, then Jesus' words certainly apply to all of us. What about you? Have you been born again? --HWR

**WHY DO WE NEED A SPIRITUAL BIRTH?**

*We are conceived in sin (Ps. 51:5).*

*We all commit sin (Rom. 3:23).*

*We are made righteous ONLY by putting our faith in Jesus, who died on the cross (Rom 5:12-19).*

**We are saved by Christ's dying, not by our doing.**



# Central Mountains Baptist Church

## NOVEMBER 6, 2016

### You Must Be Born Again

**Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. --John 3:3**

"Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again'" (Jn. 3:7). These words seem out of context. We think Jesus should have uttered them in the next chapter of John, when He met the woman beside the well (4:6-26). She had made a mess of her life and might have welcomed a chance to start over again. That's why we put up the sign at the rescue



# Something New



We can make two statements about how a new beginning can be part of our life story:

## 1. A new start needs a new \_\_\_\_\_, verses 1-10



Nicodemus

**(Matthew 12:14)** "Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him."  
**(2 Corinthians 13:5)** "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?; unless indeed you are disqualified."  
**(2 Corinthians 5:15)** "and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again."



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## 2. A new \_\_\_\_\_ needs inner \_\_\_\_\_, verses 11-21

**(Hebrews 6:1)** "... the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,"  
**(2 Corinthians 5:17)** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

**(John 7:50-52)** "Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, {51} "Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?" {52} They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee.""

From "The Atheist Delusion"

