

- I. Opening Thoughts
 - A. Regeneration if the Christian's "new birth"
 - B. Regeneration takes place "in Christ"
 - C. C.S. Lewis' quote on pg. 277 of *The Cross and Salvation* by Bruce Demarest
 - D. Three things to consider with regards to regeneration: 1) The need for regeneration, 2) the language and meaning of regeneration, 3) the results of regeneration
- II. The need for regeneration
 - A. The unregenerate are:
 1. Morally evil and need to be made pure and clean – Genesis 8:21; John 3:19
 2. Spiritually sick and need to be made spiritually healthy – Matthew 9:12. Major spiritual surgery is required
 3. Live in spiritual darkness and need to be made light in the Lord – John 3:19-20
 4. Slaves to sin and must be liberated to become free men and women – John 8:34; Romans 6:16-20
 5. Under the sentence of physical (Romans 5:12), spiritual (Ephesians 5:14), and eternal (1 Thessalonians 1:8-9) death and need to be receive eternal life
- III. The language and meaning of regeneration
 - A. Opening sentence of pg. 293 of *The Cross and Salvation* by Bruce Demarest
 - B. Paul represented the new birth as:
 1. Re-creation – radical inner change wrought by God's power – 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15
 2. A spiritual "revivication" and "resurrection" from "death to life" by identification with the risen Christ – Colossians 2:13; Ephesians 2:4-6. Regeneration is not the addition of a new element to human nature; it is the making alive of what is dead. **Jesus did not come to make you better; He came to make you new! He came to make you alive!**
 3. A circumcision of the heart – an inner spiritual transformation – Colossians 2:11 (cp. Deut. 10:16; Jer. 4:3-4)
 4. A washing – signifying then cleansing of former sins – 1 Cor. 6:11; Eph. 5:26; Psalm 51:7
 5. A new spiritual birth – an instantaneous event – John 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:3, 23
- IV. The results of regeneration
 - A. The transformation is holistic – quote from the bottom pg. 297 through the top of pg. 298 of the book *The Cross and Salvation* by Bruce Demarest.
 - B. 2 Peter 1:4 – a regenerated person partakes of the divine nature (God's holiness, mercy, etc.) as opposed to the sinful nature or the old self. The unregenerated person is energized by Satan to corrupt works, is inclined to "evil desires", and controlled by their sinful nature. The regenerate are participating in the divine nature, not becoming a divine being (God's essence) as Peter said. Paul sets it forth in Romans 8:9.
 - C. The results are:
 1. New disposition – new outlook on life. New hope. Comprehend the things of God through a renewed mind – Colossians 3:5-14 (vs. 10, emphasis)
 2. New set of affections – disordered affections and feelings are reoriented. No longer fearful, but children – Romans 8:14-17; 2 Timothy 1:7
 3. New moral qualities – freed from enslaving passions. Exchange the sordid works of the flesh for the attractive fruit of the Spirit – Galatians 5:19-23
 4. New aspirations – enabled to pursue to God kingdom values. Supreme loyalty to God and His purposes – Romans 6:12-14