



[Understanding the Christ](#)

Episode 24 - Born Again: Jesus' True Birth at the Jordan

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This episode explores what it truly means to understand Christ, arguing that being "born again" refers to Jesus' rebirth at his baptism and to believers' awakening when they accept the Father's declaration that Jesus is His only begotten Son.

It contrasts common altar-call practices with a deeper, scriptural understanding that leads to real change—redeeming us from iniquity through the Word and the Holy Spirit, producing genuine love and transformed lives.

The host emphasizes growth in truth, obedience, and love, and urges listeners to seek teaching that brings spiritual understanding and practical harmony with God.

Modified Transcript:

Scriptures are transcribed directly with notations. Refer to KJV for verbatim wording.

In our video cast, we are continuing in the direction of understanding the Christ, trying to come to some conclusions that will cause the scriptures to harmonize, things that will make sense in your life, and literally change your life.

So with this subject of understanding the Christ, I can go virtually any direction I want because he's everywhere, he's everything. The most important doctrine in the Bible is that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, born in eternity, born in Bethlehem, born again at his baptism. That is kind of what we're looking at today, being born again, because I know as a Christian, being raised a Baptist, I was told so many things about being born again, and basically, "Every head bowed, every eye closed. Raise your hand if you want to accept Jesus in your heart." You do, and then they'll tell you you've been born again.

Well, how did that happen? Well, you believed. Where is that in the Bible? It isn't in there! What is in there is the fact that Jesus himself was born again, according to Psalm 2, The Father: *I have anointed my King upon my holy hill of Zion.* Then the Son of God: *And I will declare that decree,* what decree? The anointing that God gave. *"I'll declare what he said. He said, "You are my Son. This day have I begotten you."* That 'begotten' is not literal birth, because he had been born in Bethlehem. He had been born in eternity past.

In Psalm 2. He was born again. It's a prophecy, and for those who don't understand this, the Son of God emptied himself and became a man, emptying himself (Php 2:7). How empty was he? He was empty. He came into this world in the flesh, the understanding of the flesh. God refers to it, you've got flesh and you've got spirit (Rom 8:1; Jhn 6:63). Jesus came in the flesh, and he grew in his understanding of God. He grew in wisdom. He grew in knowledge using the scripture.

In so doing, at his baptism, John had been told by God, *"Go baptize because you're going to reveal the Messiah to the children of Israel. And when you see the heavens open and the dove come down, that's him. He's the guy. He is the one who possesses the Holy Spirit."* And I have to say that Christ received an understanding of the Holy Spirit from the Scriptures, because that understanding is there.

If you read the Bible spiritually and examine those sacrifices, you will begin to understand them. When God told him, *"You're my Son,"* Jesus woke up to that truth, and he knew he was the Son of God... and if he's the Son of God, he's the Messiah. So all that came together for him.

Now, what about you and me? Well, we have to believe the words God spoke to him, "*You are my Son.*" You must believe that he's the Son of God. God said this. This is from the Father. If you can believe Jesus, you're believing the Father. *There is only one God, the Father. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, and God has made him both Lord and Christ* (1Co 8:6; Act 2:36).

So what I want to do is turn to 1 Peter chapter 1, and I want to begin reading at verse 17.

1Pe 1:17 If you call on the Father, who without respect of persons judges according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.

Now I'm asking you to take a long look at this verse, "*Calling on the Father, who is without respect of persons.*" He doesn't like one of us more than the other, but he judges according to every man's work.

I was always told that on the cross, Jesus said it's finished and he paid the price for everybody, and now when God looks at you he sees Jesus and you need to try to live like God would have you live... keep those Ten Commandments and live your life; do as good as you can because everybody has fallen short of the glory of God. Nobody can live as righteous as Jesus. Nobody can do this.

So you just accept the fact that you're who you are, a dirty sinner, and Jesus paid the price for you. Now that you believe (you prayed a prayer and God forgave you) ... because you prayed that prayer, now you're born again, and don't worry about it. No one gets to heaven by works. Nuh-uh. It's faith. Righteousness is by faith.

Now let me tell you something. I've been down that road, and I know where they get that stuff. I'm telling you right now, it doesn't work. You are not going to overcome sin in your life. Yeah, maybe you quit cussing. Maybe you quit smoking. Maybe you quit drinking. Maybe you quit going to dances, and you're changing your diet. That has nothing to do with what God is trying to work in your life. The most important commandment is to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love

your neighbor as yourself (Mar 12:29-31). By loving your neighbor, you're showing you love God, and you're walking in obedience to God.

How are you going to do that? You prayed a prayer, you lifted your hands up, somebody saw you lift your hands. You didn't even have enough courage to walk down the aisle, and even if you did, you're making a statement, "I believe." But what did this verse say? What did we read in this? *"God judges according to every man's work."* What is that work? Lifting up your hand? What is the work? Because he judges without respect of persons, every man's work.

When you accept the truth, you're on a road to be redeemed from all iniquity. That takes place in your mind. You are the one who has sinned and hurt people. You are the one that people have sinned against and hurt, and those things plague you. Jesus portrayed it with a crown of thorns. That's the guilt and stripes on his back. That's the 'unable to forgive.' You've got stripes. People said things and hurt you, and you can't let it go.

The cross, if you rightly understand it, will pull those things away from you. You will be free from guilt and free from the anger and bitterness and resentment you've carried toward those who hurt you. Now you are free to walk in love. None of this happens unless somebody explains it to you.

I know what I was told. It didn't include any of this. I was told, "You're saved." Now, I believe it. I'm saved. And then, my life, even though I was a Christian, Bible-reading Christian, just went downhill. I wasn't able to live according to God's righteousness. I was not free from sin, as Paul states in Romans 6, *"You have obeyed from the heart into a form of teaching given you. Now you are free from sin, you've been made free from sin"* (Rom 6:17-18).

Oh, yeah? When I would tell that to the people in my church, they didn't believe it. "Nobody's free from sin. We've all fallen short of the glory of God. Nobody's free from sin." Well, if that's your path, if you're satisfied with that, okay. I wasn't satisfied with that. I know there's more to God.

I asked a woman one time, she was talking about my Christianity, and I said, "Well, do you know God?" I said, "What has God done for you in your life? How is God working in your life?" She was silent. And I said to her, "Look, if the Creator of the universe is in your heart, how could you not see that? Why would you still be the same? Why can't you overcome if you've got Him in your life?"

Now, maybe I'm stepping on people's toes, but you know what, we need to wake up. We need to realize, I mean, I'm reading verses here that God will judge you according to your works. That is not what I was told, again. "He's not going to judge you according to your works. It's by faith, faith alone." Well, let me tell you about that. Faith is when you're taught something and you believe it (Rom 10:17). What is taught to you that you hang on to is faith. Now that you have that, you live your life according to that faith.

Live your life. That's works (Jam 2:17-22). You live your life according to what you've been taught, and your works will perfect your faith. *God will judge every man according to his works*. Let me read this verse again, and we'll go on. 1 Peter, chapter 1, verse 17.

1Pe 1:17 If you call on the Father, who without respect of persons judges according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear (in the fear of God).

1Pe 1:18 Forasmuch as you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver and gold, redeemed from your vain conduct, which you received by tradition from your fathers.

Take a long look at that. You're redeemed from your conduct, your vain conduct. Verse 19,

1Pe 1:19 But you were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb who is without blemish and without spot.

Stop a minute. You're redeemed from your vain conduct. Your life needs to change. And as you grow in understanding of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as you grow in understanding of it... I'm not saying as you grow in believing in it. There's a difference between believing in it and understanding it.

God has his ministry that will teach you how to understand it, and you apply it to your life. If you're in a church that isn't doing that... listen to me. There are times I just don't get it, where people are so loyal to that denomination. They're so loyal to that creed that isn't helping them.

We've got to come to the place where we see in Revelation 6, looking at the four horsemen... Let's just say all of the seals. You look at these seals. Those seals are happening to each one of us individually. You go through that process of growth.

You start off on a white horse, and you go forth conquering and to conquer. You've given your heart to God, and you're going to serve God. The problem is you don't know anything, but your attitude is right. You want to serve God, and what happens? Well, he hands you the sword, the great sword, that's the Bible. And that horse turns red. What is red? Red is self. It's literalism. In other words, it's your own opinion.

He's going to give you the book, and you start putting your own opinion into it. Now it's at this time, people might approach you. They might approach you: Come to our church. Come and do this. You've got to speak in tongues. Well, you have to keep the Sabbath. Well, you have to do this. You have to do that. Some will tell you that you don't have to do anything. You raise your hand. Okay, you're saved. But you are interpreting this book, putting your own interpretation on it.

Next horse, black. What does that mean? Well, you're weighing the verses. You're weighing the wheat and the barley, and you're putting value on some verses and other verses you don't value. You're seeing that some verses are more important than others. You're on a black horse... like what? Well, how about these? I've got to keep the Ten Commandments, and 'looky there,' look at that fourth one. I've got to go to church on Saturday now. Or look over here at this verse. We're all supposed to be speaking in tongues, baptized in the spirit. I could go on and on with the stuff that I have experienced myself.

But you know where it leads? The next horse. The pale horse. That is pale green. Green happens when the rain of God falls on this earth, and everything turns green, the grass, the trees, but this horse is pale green because it doesn't have the understanding of God.

It's pale green. Death and the grave follow this guy, and it's at that point you begin to realize "something's wrong in my life."

Have you reached that place yet? Are you walking in love so that you can stand before God and say, "I have loved you with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength. That is how much I love you." And I'm manifesting it by loving my husband, my children, my ex-wife, my uncle, my parents, who tormented me all my life. But I'm loving them with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength.

You know what, I would bet you money you don't even know how to do that. I would bet you money that there are things in your life, people in your life, you can't even talk to. You struggle with it. 1 Corinthians 13 is the definition of love. You don't want to fail there. The greatest commandments are to love God and love your neighbor.

So you're riding now, you've gone from white, red, black to pale horse. The fifth seal, you cry out and ask God for help. How does he help you? The sixth seal... how? He shows you your sun is as black as sackcloth of hair. The way you look at Jesus is just in darkness. Your moon, the Bible, is red. You're interpreting it with a literal interpretation that is not of God.

The stars all fall. All the truths that you think to be true fall to the earth. and he closes your heavens up. "Heavens" is "God's understanding." His goal is to redeem you from your thinking that you had all the way back on the white horse, from the thinking given to you on the red horse, from your judging of verses and what's important on the black horse, and from death and hell that follows you on that pale horse.

That is his goal. Is it easy? It isn't easy for anybody because you don't want to believe you've been in that much error. What you've been doing is going to church every Saturday or every Sunday, and getting pats on the back for showing up. But as far as being redeemed from iniquity, you still don't understand Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, born in eternity, emptied himself and became a man, and was born again at his baptism. When you believe that truth, you are born again.

Born again is not raising your hand in church; it is not praying a prayer. Born again is believing Jesus is the only begotten Son of God... Really, that he really is. Let's go back to 1 Peter, verse 18 again.

1Pe 1:18 Forasmuch as you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver and gold, redeemed from your vain conduct that you received from your fathers.

1Pe 1:19 You're redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

1Pe 1:20 Who was foreordained before the foundation of the world to redeem you. (Remember Revelation 13:8. He was slain from the foundation of the world.) But he was manifest in these last times for you,

1Pe 1:21 Who by him, by Jesus, you believe in God. God is the one that raised Him from the dead. God is the one who gave Him glory, so that your faith and your hope would be in (who? God or Jesus?) God.

1Pe 1:22 Seeing you've purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit...

What? Look at that again. You've purified your soul in believing the truth? No. *Obeying the truth through the Spirit.*

1Pe 1:22 ... That will lead to unfeigned love of the brethren. See that you love one another with a pure heart, fervently.

We could talk about that verse for weeks. In fact, I want to read it one more time.

1Pe 1:22 You've purified your soul in obeying the truth through the Holy Spirit (which is what Christ portrayed on that cross). Obeying that leads to unfeigned love of the brethren. See that you love each other, then with a pure heart fervently:

1Pe 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides forever.

Remember the parable of the sower of the seed (Mat 13:1-23)? Remember that parable where he is sowing seed, and when Jesus explains it, he says, "*The seed is the word of God.*" You're to be born again, not of corruptible seed, not of corruptible truth, but incorruptible. If God made a statement and told Jesus, "*You are my Son,*" you can pretty

well believe that. You can accept that. God said it. God said it out loud. God said it, and he fulfilled a prophecy from Psalm 2 that when Jesus believed what God said to him, he became the Christ, but he was also born again. *"This day have I begotten you."*

You and I are to go through the same experience. It is God who will send a messenger to you. The messenger will preach the truth about the Son of God, and when you believe it, you're believing God. You're not just simply believing the messenger because he knows you, or he grew up with you, or he comes over to eat. You're believing it because it is God speaking through that person. You got anybody in your life who can teach you that truth? You'd better hearken. You better pay attention to it because it is that truth, when you believe it, you are born from above, you are now on the narrow path.

Now that you're there and you see Jesus for who he really is, now that you're there, you can start receiving truth, growing in an understanding of the Holy Spirit, because it is that spirit that will help you walk in love as it redeems you from all iniquity and shows you how to forgive and how to be free from guilt. It teaches you how to live a life in perfect harmony with God, because again, I'm going to warn you, he's no respecter of persons. He's going to judge every man according to his works. Am I making this up? No, we read the verse.

So all the verses people are feeding you, "Just simply believe and you're saved," that's only a step. You believe the truth, you act on it, and by means of your acting on it, it will perfect what you understand, and you will be able to live a life of love without hypocrisy... unfeigned love, and I would say especially of the brethren.

For a lot of people, they'll listen to something like this and only get angry. Some people, I pray, will recognize in their own heart, this is the truth. You are the person that I'm looking for. I want to find people who are humble enough to say that they've been wrong. They've been taught wrong. They've believed wrong. They know something isn't right. You can't even get along at home; you're struggling in your life. "But you got God, you got Jesus." Well, guess what, you probably don't. Because if God were in your life as he describes in the scripture, your life will change... and you're going to find a harmony with God, a harmony in your home, a peace, a security outside of any denominational church.

Let's understand. There was an apostasy in the days of the apostles. It lasts to the end of the world. There is no denominational church that is not in that apostasy. That is why you're struggling. It's my prayer that God will put someone in our lives to wake us up, help us see there's more to God than just going to church on a certain day or speaking in tongues or going to potlucks. There's more to God than that. He is everything. He will fill up everything in your life if you let him. It's my prayer that we let Him.