

YOU
MUST BE
BORN
AGAIN

— John 3:1-8 —



Holy Light Church
27, 28 June 2026 Dr Tai Kim Teng

In this world, there are 2 beautiful miracles:

Physical birth which withers as a flower &

Spiritual re-birth which blooms eternally.



About Eternal Life,

Jesus said:

**“You must be
born again”**

You Must Be Born Again

John 3:1-8 NIV

¹Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” ³Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” ⁴“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their

mother's womb to be born!"⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

You Must Be Born Again

John 3:1-8 NIV

Journey of Nicodemus with Jesus

- 1. Confusion of the Mind**
- 2. Conversion of the Spirit**
- 3. Confirmation in New Life**

1. Confusion of the Mind

John 3:1 Now there was a **Pharisee**, a man named **Nicodemus** who was a member of the Jewish ruling **council**.

Nicodemus

Pharisee-Religious teachers
& interpreter of God's Law
Sanhedrin – Highest Judicial
Authority of 70 (High Priest)

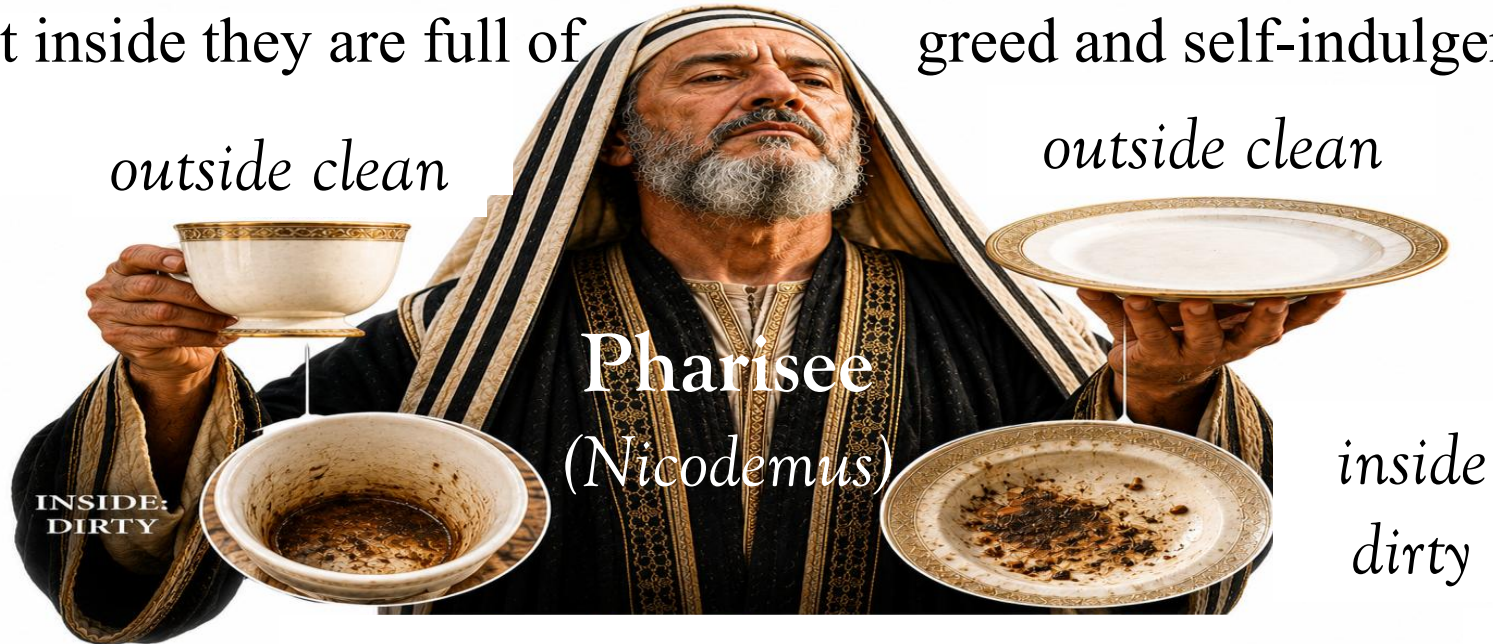
Religion, Rank
Respect, Reputation



*“Victory
over
People”*

Nicodemus is confused about religion

Matthew 23:25 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You **clean the outside** of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

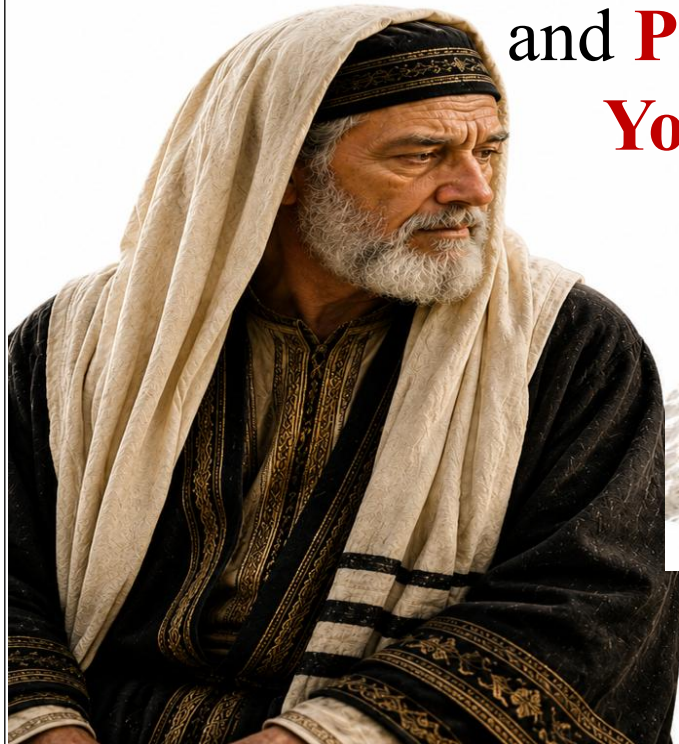


Your religion is **external** without **inside** transformation

Nicodemus is confused about religion

Matthew 23:27 “Woe to you, teachers of the law
and **Pharisees**, you **hypocrites**!

You are like whitewashed tombs



“Outside is nice looking, Inside is dead”
Religiously alive but spiritually dead

Nicodemus is religious outside, restless inside

He spent his life trying very hard to obey the **Law** through external rules, rituals & routines

- **10 Commandments**
- **613 laws in Torah**

Romans 3:20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the **works of the law**; rather, through the law we **become conscious of our sin.**



Law (of Moses) acts like a mirror



**Mirror show dirt
Cannot wash dirt**

**Law show our sin
Cannot wash sin**

Saviour needed cleanse sin

Law reveal our sin & point to a Saviour

Galatians 3:24 NKJV Therefore the **law was our tutor to bring us to Christ**, that we might be justified by faith



Law tutored Nicodemus & brought him to Christ

So, Nicodemus went to Jesus for answers

John 3:2 He came to Jesus at **night** and said, “**Rabbi**, we know that you are a teacher who has come **from God**. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”



*He secretly
met Jesus
to avoid
prying
eyes*

Nicodemus is humble, teachable & seeking truth
Nicodemus also believed Jesus comes from God

Believing Jesus is God, by itself cannot save you

Mark 5:7 He shouted at the top of his voice,
“What do you want with me, **Jesus, Son of
the Most High God**? In God’s name
don’t torture me!”



How then can a person can be saved?

You Must Be Born Again

John 3:1-8 NIV

Journey of Nicodemus with Jesus

- 1. Confusion of the Mind**
- 2. Conversion of the Spirit**
3. Confirmation in New Life

2. Conversion of the Spirit

John 3:3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the **kingdom of God** unless they are **born again**.”



1st birth

**Salvation
belongs to
2nd birth**



2nd birth

John 3:4 “How can someone be born when they are old?”

Nicodemus asked.

“Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

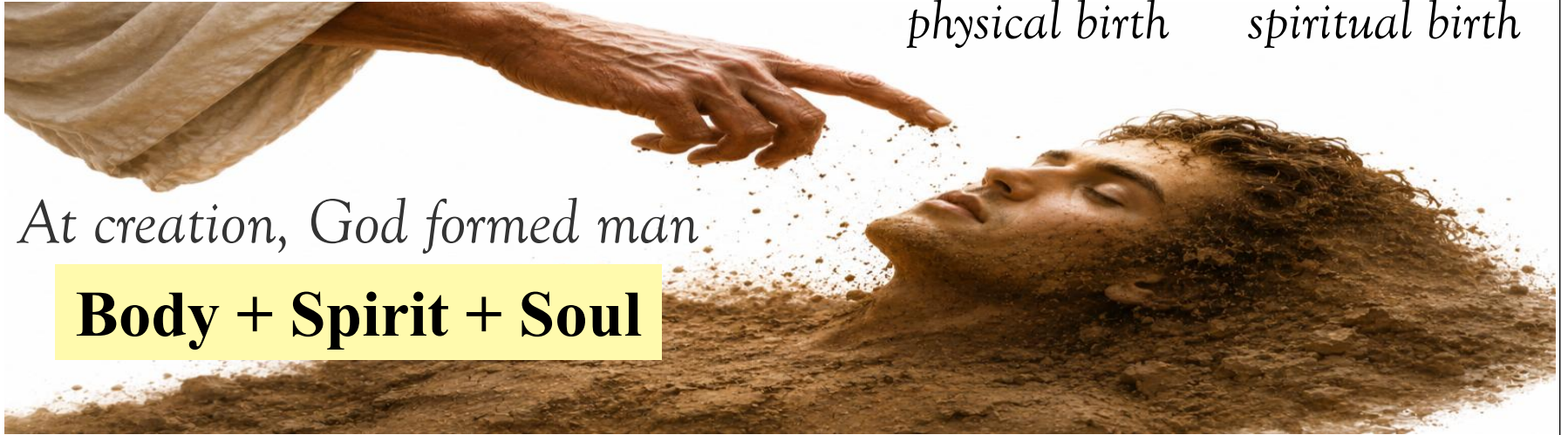


Nicodemus thinking of **physical re-birth**

Jesus is talking about **spiritual re-birth**

John 3:5 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are **born of water and the Spirit**.

physical birth *spiritual birth*

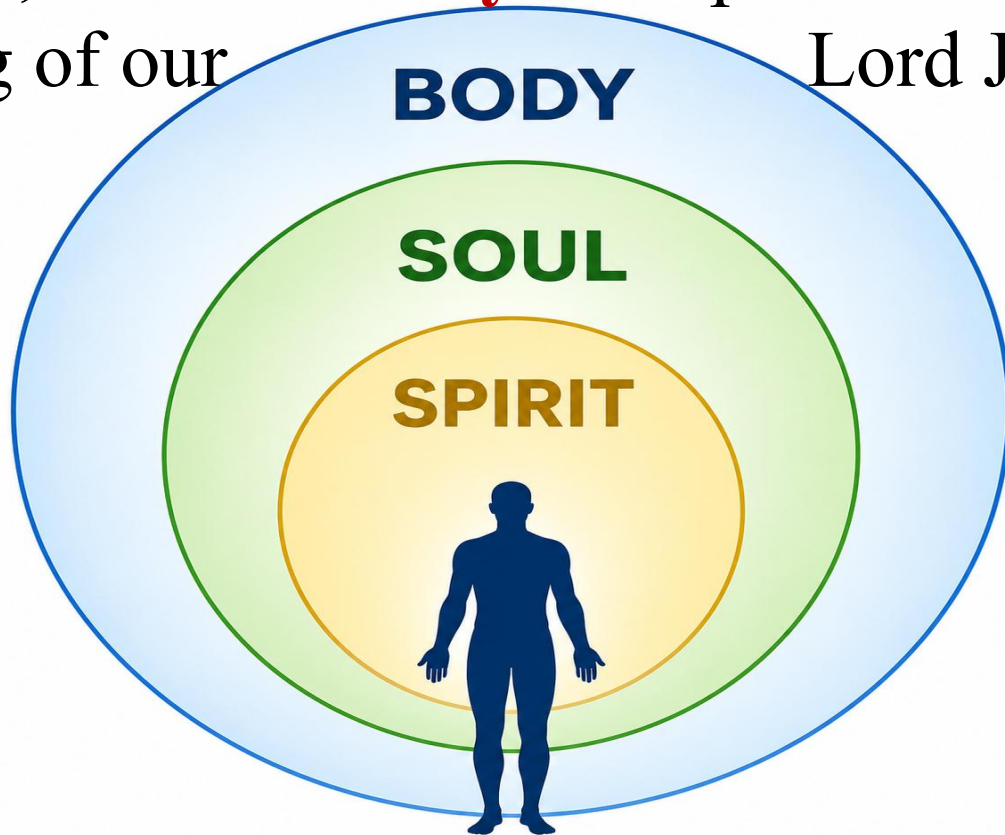


At creation, God formed man

Body + Spirit + Soul

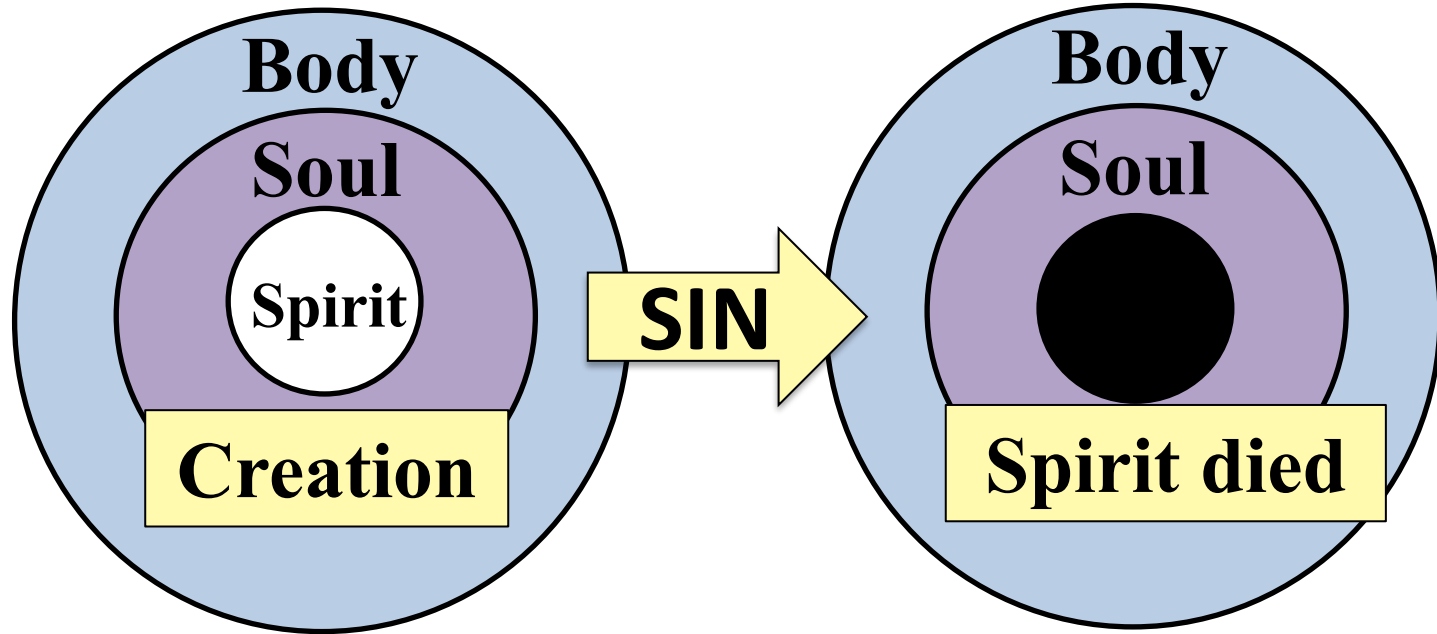
Genesis 2:7 KJV And the LORD God formed man of the **dust** of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the **breath** of life; and man became a living **soul**.

1 Thessalonians 5:23b May your whole
spirit, soul and **body** be kept blameless at
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ



Romans 5:12 NLT When Adam **sinned**, **sin** entered the world.
Adam's **sin** brought death, so death spread to everyone

Adam's sin brought spiritual death to everyone



Ephesians 2:1 you were dead in your transgressions and sins

John 3:7 You should not be surprised at my saying,
‘You must be born again.’

Christians must be born again-two births to be saved

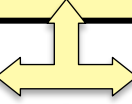
1st birth-Physical birth *John 3:6* **2nd birth-Spiritual birth**

1. Human life



Parents

*Flesh
gives
birth
to
flesh*



God
*Spirit
gives
birth
to
spirit*

2. Spiritual life



Christians must have conversion of the Spirit

Non-Christians

1 birth + 2 deaths

1. **Flesh birth to flesh**
2. **Spirit not born again**

1. **Physical death**
2. **Spiritual death**

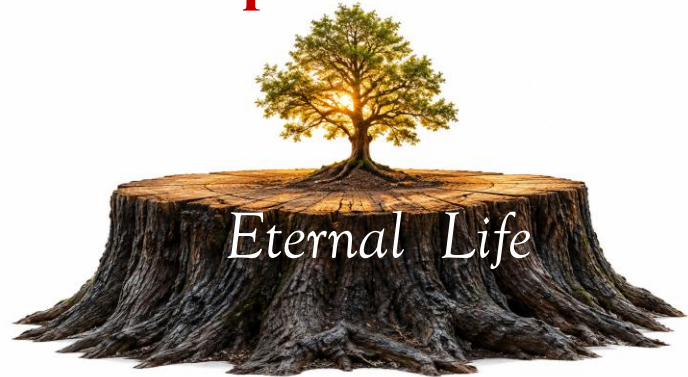


Born again Christians

2 births + 1 death

1. **Flesh birth to flesh**
2. **Spirit birth to Spirit**

1. **Physical death**
2. **Spiritual life**



Born again Christians have indwelling Holy Spirit



John 3:8 The **wind** blows wherever it **pleases**. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell **where** it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone

born of the Spirit.

Holy Spirit (like wind) is Sovereign & Invisible
Effects are visible in Spiritual fruits &
Spiritual gifts & Transformed lives.

You Must Be Born Again

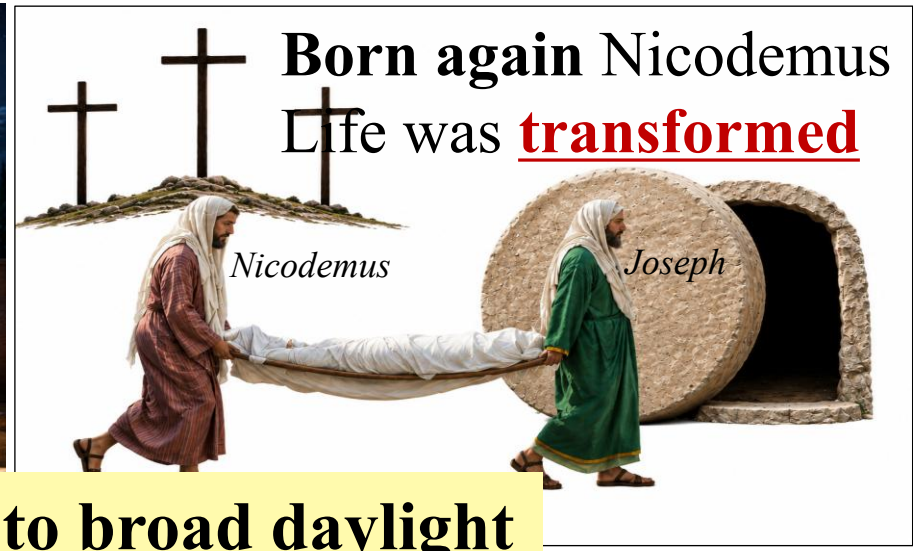
John 3:1-8 NIV

Journey of Nicodemus with Jesus

- 1. Confusion of the Mind**
- 2. Conversion of the Spirit**
- 3. Confirmation in New Life**

3. Confirmation in New Life

Nicodemus met Jesus at **night**; **buried him broad daylight**



From darkness to broad daylight

John 19:39-40 Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. **Taking Jesus' body**, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen.

Born-again Christians has newness of life

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, the **new creation** has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

3. Faith in Christ

4. Indwelling of HS

5. Infilling of HS

1. Conviction of sin by HS

2. Born again (new creation)

Transformed life
-Spiritual fruit
-Spiritual Gifts



Conversion

Confirmation

Confirmation in New Life: 1.Spiritual Fruit

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22-23

LOVE

JOY

PEACE

PATIENCE

KINDNESS



GOODNESS

GENTLENESS

FAITHFULNESS

SELF-CONTROL

Galatians 5:25 Since we **live by the Spirit**

let us **keep in step** with the Spirit. **Christlikeness**

Confirmation in New Life: 2.Spiritual Gifts

THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:4-10

Equipped By Spirit
Empowered to Serve



WORD OF WISDOM



HEALING



WORD OF KNOWLEDGE



FAITH



TONGUES



MIRACLES



DISCERNING OF SPIRITS



PROPHECY



EXHORTATION



INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES



HELPS

John Sung had **Spiritual awakening** (1927)

Mental Hospital-193 days

Prayed to God

Read Bible 40X



ASYLUM CASE
JOHN SUNG

Born again Christian
Transformed servant



Committed his whole life to serving Christ

From Success in the world to

Significance in Christ (17 years)

(100K conversions)



John Sung 1936

-10 days, 60 sick healed

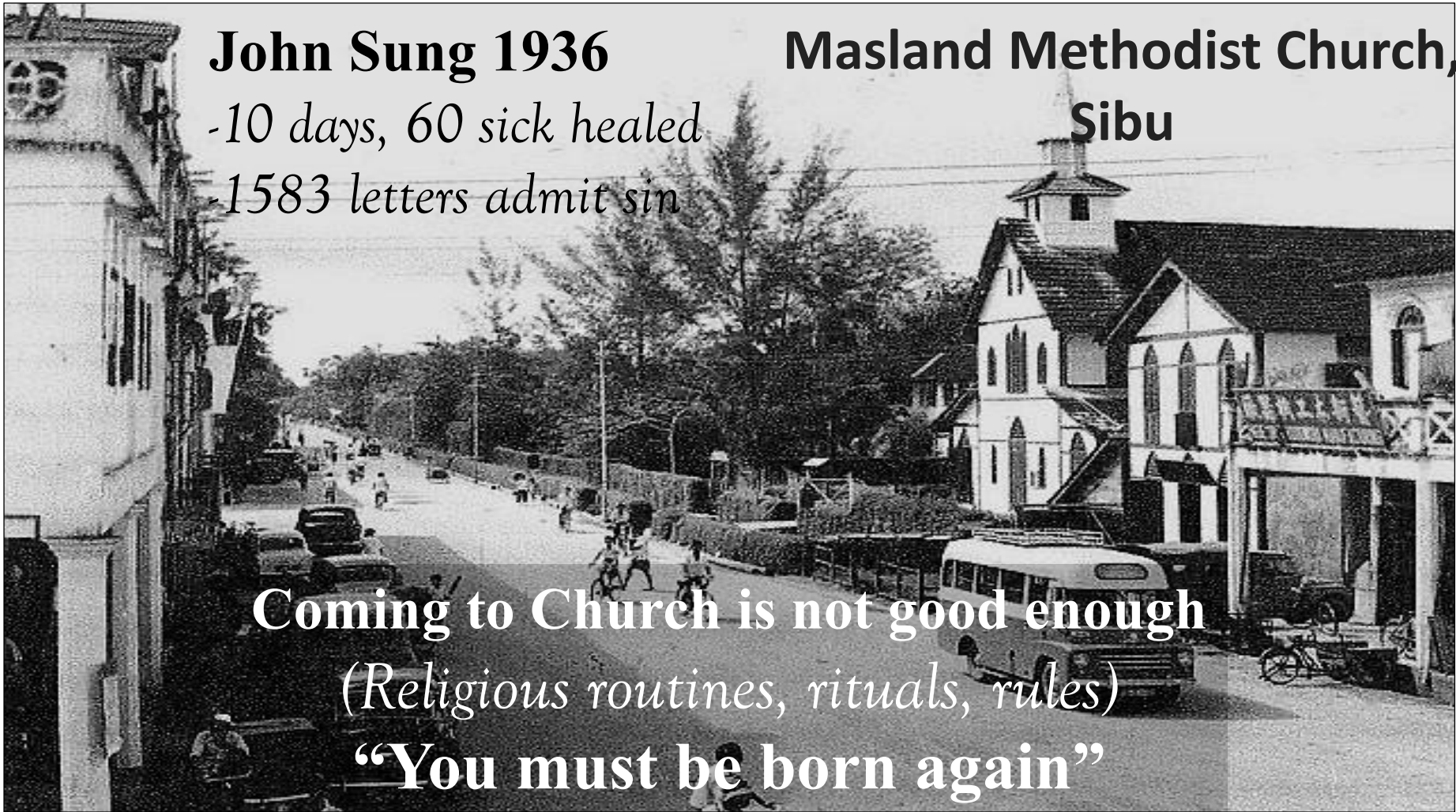
-1583 letters admit sin

**Masland Methodist Church,
Sibu**

Coming to Church is not good enough

(Religious routines, rituals, rules)

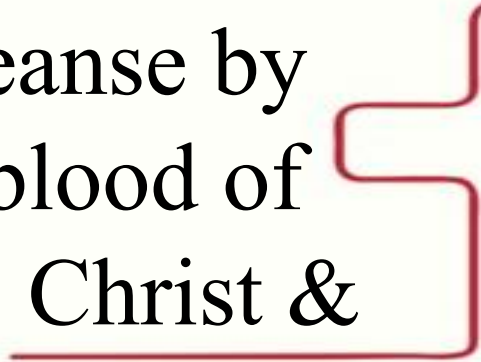
“You must be born again”



Conclusion

You must be born again

Cleanse by
blood of
Christ &



filled with
Holy Spirit

spiritual
re-birth

Titus 3:5-6 He saved us through the washing of **rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit**, whom he poured out on us generously through **Jesus Christ our Savior**