



By

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No Exceptions To The Rule

*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; **Romans 3:23***

*Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God. **John 3:3***

Those of us who are of the Baby Boomer generation will remember the lyrics to this old rhythm and blues song: Everybody Plays The Fool Sometimes. There's No Exception To The Rule. And while it was meant to stir young lovers emotions, The universal truth that it conveys is impossible to ignore. Especially when it comes to sin, because sin makes a fool out of all of us. It is as inescapable as death and taxes. Oh we try to defy death as much as we can. We try to eat right, exercise, see the doctor on a regular basis. We do all of the things necessary to ward off death. Some even go to the extreme by being cryogenically frozen at the onset of death in hopes of being awoken when a cure is found for whatever the

illness is. But I'm here to tell you my Brothers and my sisters when death comes knocking at the door you must answer and There are **No Exceptions to The Rule.**

Not only do we as humans try cheat death, people in every walk of life are constantly seeking ways, and means to get every break possible. Some look for the best car at the cheapest price. Some are looking for the most productivity for the least capitol out lay. Others are just looking for something for nothing. The one thing that they all have in common is their desire to be the exception to the rule. In the spiritual realm, believe it or not, that mentality exist there too. People are always looking for the scriptures that apply to their neighbor, but not to them. Remember the Pharisee who was at the alter praying; ***“The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God I thank thee that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess...Luke 18:11-14***

He thought that because he was so self-righteous he deserved special dispensation from God. He really believed that he was the exception to the rule. SO what if he tells a little white lie every now and then. And even if he did not visit the sick, or feed the hungry, or clothe the naked, who's going to know? Okay He may have harbored lust in his heart, but he did not act on it. So did he really hurt anybody? It will be his little secrete. What he failed to realize was that a little white lie is still sin. Omitting to do what you know is the right thing to do is still sin. Lust, whether acted up on or not is still sin. The bible does not say the wages of big sin is death, No the bible says the wages of Sin is death.... **There Are No Exceptions To The Rule!**

There are many extraordinarily talented people in this world and there are many extraordinarily clumsy people in this world as well. At some point or time we all fall within one category or the other. But there is one category (**The category of sin**) that we all share and there **No Exceptions to the Rule!**

In **Romans 3:10** Paul says *“There is none righteous no not one”* And in our text for today Paul says *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Romans 3:23”* I think the point is aptly made that all of us are in the same shape and we all need the same cure.

Now I know that some of you listening to me this morning could make the argument that is the equivalent to the pot calling the kettle black. That is not my intent. My intent is to say that there are **No Exceptions to the Rule! We all need Jesus Christ!** And unlike the publican who bragged about his own righteous, there is no magic number of good deeds that you can do to please God, There aren't enough acts of contrition that will get you into heaven. You can't pay enough tithes to buy your way in. You must remember that *“all we like sheep have gone astray”* And **There Are No Exceptions to The Rule!**

Jesus says *“I AM The Door: by me if any man enter in he shall be saved...John 10:9. I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh to the*

father but by me.” You can’t get through the door of Jesus unless you meet his requirements and just so you will know, **There Are No Exceptions to the Rule!**

In our second Scripture text we find Jesus speaking to Nicodemus, the ruler of the Jews who came to Jesus seeking Understanding. I don’t think he got the response he was after, but he got the one he needed. Nicodemus wanted to know how Jesus was able to perform the miracles that he and others had witnessed, instead Jesus answered him by saying “*Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.*

John 3:3” Well, not only was this not the answer that Nicodemus sought, What Jesus said didn’t make since to Nicodemus at all. “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mothers’ womb and be born?” Come on Jesus, speak to me, and tell me what I need to know.

5 Jesus answered, ***Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit,***

he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. Its not enough to have only your earthly birth you must also have a heavenly birth if you intend to make it into heaven. Your problem Nicodemus is you are trying to apply your limited earthly knowledge to issues that have a divine origin. *That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. And my brothers and my sisters If you **must** be born again, **Must** means **There Are No Exceptions To The Rule!** Works won't get you in. Money won't get you in, Power won't get you in, and looks won't get you in. Academics, cunning, swiftness, no none of these, ***Ye must be born again!***

Born again means born from above. This act is a miracle that only God can perform. Well how does he do it? Peter says” Being **BORN AGAIN**, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. [1 PETER 1](#)

No this is not complicated, it’s not as hard to understand as you might think. Its not Brain surgery, Its Soul surgery. Well, my brothers and sisters if being born again is a must, If **There Are No Exceptions To The Rule**, If being born again is by the word of God, What then does the Word of God Say? “ ***But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth and in thy heart: that is the word of faith, which we preach;***

If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, Thou shalt be saved....For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved!” Romans 10:8,9 & 13 **There Are No Exceptions To The Rule!**