

11/26/95

### John 3

#### 3:1-21 Jesus reveals the new birth to Necodemus

**3:1** Necodemus stands in contrast to those in the preceding chapter. Jn. 2:23-25

- 1) Necodemus' name means "the victory of the people".
- 2) He was a Pharisee which means "separated ones", they came out of the Maccabean wars, dedicated to preserving and keeping the Law and they never numbered more than 6,000
- 3) Necodemus was a ruler of the Jews, a member of Sanhedrin, the ruling body of Israel.

**3:2** Necodemus came to Jesus by night.

- 1) He addressed Jesus with respect, Rabbi, master or teacher.
  - 2) He confessed his belief that Jesus was from God as well as others.
  - 3) He based his belief on the signs done by Jesus.
- \* The caution is that Satan will give power to the Anti-Christ to use lying signs and wonders as well as his false prophet. 2Thess. 2:9-10; Rev. 13:13; Deut. 13:1-3

**3:3** Jesus answers Necodemus' heart not his words.

- 1) He was thinking of entry to the Kingdom and Jesus knew it. 2:25
- 2) He is told he has to be born again to enter the Kingdom of God.  
\* "Again" means from above "another" Jn. 3:31; 19:11; Ja. 1:17; 3:15
  - a) It is true by the phrase, "Most assuredly".
  - b) It is authoritative by the phrase, "I say to you".
  - c) It is instructional by the content, Jesus declares this truth three times. vs. 3, 5, 7

**3:4** Necodemus' question is evidence of skepticism.

- 1) It is based on the natural mind. 1Cor. 2:9-16
- 2) It is an expression of impossibility by the second natural birth.

**3:5** Jesus declares the truth a second time.

- 1) He substitutes some word for the ones in verse three.
- 2) They have to refer to the same Kingdom
- 3) They provide the source and the result of the new birth.
- 4) Some declare that water refers to baptism yet this would contradict and supplement the

finished work on the cross. Rom. 6:3-4;  
1Pet. 3:19-21

5) Others declare both phrases refer to the work of the Holy Spirit but this would accuse Jesus of redundancy.

6) The only thing water can mean is "the word of God",

a) We are born of incorruptible seed, the word of God. Ja. 1:18; 1Pet. 1:23

b) We are cleansed by the word of God. Eph. 5:26

c) We are told by Jesus the His disciples were cleansed through the word spoken to them. Jn. 15:3

d) We are told to hear the voice of the Spirit which is through the word of God. vs. 8

e) We are pointed to the Scriptures. vs. 14

**3:6** Jesus corrects Nicodemus' mistaken notion that He is talking about a physical birth.

1) The flesh birth is the natural one of our parents which Jesus is not talking about.

\* Out of an unclean thing nothing can be brought forth Job 14:4

\* Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may ye also do good, that that are accustomed to do evil. Jer. 13:23

2) The Spiritual new birth the one from heaven. Jn. 1:12-13

**3:7** This is the third time Jesus declares the key to enter the Kingdom of God.

1) Nicodemus is not to be perplexed by the truth.

2) Nicodemus must be born again, the word "must" is added as an absolute requirement without exception for all of mankind.

**3:8** The verse illustrates the work of the Holy Spirit in the birth of the believer through the illuminating work not so much the affects as usually taught.

1) The word "wind" is the word "pneuma" and appears 35 times in the New Testament but this is the only time it is translated "wind".

2) The Holy Spirit breathes where it wishes and people hear the voice of the Holy Spirit through the word of God which He reveals to the sinner, that is how a person is born again from above!

**3:9** Nicodemus now rather than asking the skeptical "how" he asks the humble "how", the method of becoming born again.

**3:10-12** Jesus reproves Nicodemus.

1) For being "the" teacher of Israel and not knowing these things, implying the ability to know. vs. 10; Ezek. 36:25-28

2) For rejecting the Jesus testimony. vs. 11

3) For relying on his natural mind. vs. 12

**3:13** Jesus declares Himself to be the unique revealer of heavenly things.

- 1) He alone has descended from heaven.
- 2) He alone is "the Son of Man", 100% man through the incarnation.

**3:14-15** The scriptures are the source of the manner of being born again.

1) God had a type of the redemptive work of the cross in the wilderness. Num. 21:4-9

\* Lifted up. Jn. 8:28; 12:32-33

2) The entire Old Testament is for our learning and example. Rom. 15:4; 1Cor. 10:6, 11

3) The symbolism and type of the anti-type is impossible to miss!

\* The pole represents the cross, the serpent represents sin being judged on the cross and the looking to it represents looking to Jesus in faith in order not to perish and have eternal life, age abiding life with God forever.

**3:16** Luther calls this verse "The Bible in miniature".

- 1) The verse is inexhaustible!
- 2) The motive of God to save us was love!  
\* the actual salvation is by grace not love.
- 3) The world "kosmos" represents the entire humanity of man.

4) The gift was the greatest and indescribable. 2Cor. 9:15

5) The person was the only begotten Son of God.

6) The people who qualify is whosoever.

7) The condition is faith in Jesus, literally, "whoever puts faith into Him".

8) The result is that he will not perish but have everlasting life.

**3:17** The purpose of sending God's son was not to condemn, speaking of the process not the final judgment but to be saved.

\* 38 times Jesus refers to His being sent by the father.

**3:18** The eternal state of man is by personal choice.

1) If I believe I am not condemned.

2) If I believe not I am condemned already by the word I have rejected.

a) The name refers to the fact that "He is Jehovah is salvation".

b) The only begotten refers to the incarnation being 100% God and Man. Jn. 1:1, 14, 18

\* Jn. 3:36; 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5; 1 Jn. 2:23; 5:12.

**3:19** The guilt or judgment that falls on man here and now is the privilege and

accountability to the ultimate light of God in His Son.

1) Jesus is the true light that has come into the world. Jn. 1:4-5, 7, 9, 11

2) Men love darkness rather than light by choice.

3) The reason is due to man's evil heart, his deeds are evil. Jer. 17:9

**3:20-21** The commentary on the previous verse.

1) Those who practice evil, hate the light.

2) They stay away from the light so that their deeds are not exposed or revealed.

3) Those who live in the truth come to the light.

4) They do so to that God may examine them as done in God.

**3:22-36** **John the baptist exalts Jesus**