

How Do You Get To Heaven?

John 2:23–3:21

What Does The Bible Say?

23 Because of the miraculous signs Jesus did in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration, many began to trust in him. 24 But Jesus didn't trust them, because he knew all about people. 25 No one needed to tell him about human nature, for he knew what was in each person's heart. (John 2:23–25 NLT)

Jesus's first extended conversation in John's Gospel centers on the credentials required to get into heaven.

There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. 2 After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you." (John 3:1–2 NLT)

Nicodemus possessed three qualities.

He was a Pharisee.

He was a Jewish religious leader .

He was a respected Jewish teacher.

Because Jesus knew what was in people's hearts, He used four different illustrations to instruct Nicodemus on the basics of salvation.

Birth (vv. 1–7)

The wind (vv. 8–13)

The Serpent on the Pole (vv. 14–18)

Light and darkness (vv. 19–21)

How Can You Obey?

16 “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16 NLT)

God loved us so much that He gave His Son for us.

17 God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:17 NLT)

Verse 17 provides the “Why” Jesus came.

18 “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. (John 3:18 NLT)

God demands a choice; here is the result of that choice.

Additional Notes:

If you want to use your home to disciple others, check out our training at www.crosswaveschurch.com/host. Cross Waves has produced short videos to train you to use your home to reach others for Christ. So please check it out.

Explore:

Christianity is about more than attending church and living a good moral life. Being a Christian is about having a vibrant personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Every Sunday School teacher or Bible study leader should want to see each learner enter into this relationship—their eternal destiny depends on it.

As you work toward this goal, keep the following in mind:

Following Christ is more than a mere decision; it is about a lifelong relationship. Jesus called us to make disciples, not mere

decision-makers. Aim for long-term faith, not momentary emotion.

Salvation is a matter of grace, not works. Our works do not save us (Ephesians 2:8-9), nor do they keep us (Galatians 3:2-6).

Good works are a product of salvation, not a prerequisite to it.

Don't confuse sanctification with salvation. Holiness follows salvation; it doesn't precede it. Don't try to impose "Christian" expectations on men and women who don't know Christ.

- Keep it simple. Being born again is not complicated. Here's a simple way to explain it:

- Acknowledge your sinfulness and need for a Savior (Romans 3:10, 23).

- Trust in Christ's sacrifice for your sins and His resurrection (Romans 10:9-10).

Surrender your life to God's transforming power (Romans 12:1-2).

Remember that your job is to tell the truth in a way others can understand, answer their questions, and allow them to respond.

If you do that faithfully, some will respond and join the band of Christ- followers. When they do, Heaven will rejoice!

Question 1 of 4

What does it mean to be born again?

Question 2 of 4

How is Nicodemus's interaction with Jesus different from the way other Pharisees interacted with Jesus?

Question 3 of 4

Which of the four different illustrations to instruct Nicodemus on the basics of salvation do you like the best?

Question 4 of 4

In your own words, explain how God saved the world through Jesus.