

•3Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

4Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

5Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. John 3:3-5

•So many people today are going through dark days because they’re carrying a load of guilt, shame, and regret. They may look successful on the outside, but inside they’re tormented by their secrets.

•*Is there a way to wipe the slate clean? Is there a way to get a fresh start?* Yes, it’s called being born again.

•There are only two ways to get into a family: You can either be born into it, or you can be adopted into it. God does both! It’s called being born again, and it’s called being adopted into the family of God. **God does both.**

•*In Roman law, which people followed in the New Testament, you could disown a child you birthed. But if you adopted a child, you were forbidden to ever disown them. God says you are not only born again into his family, but he has adopted you, and there is no way he could ever disown you.*

•**Church is not something you go to now. It’s now something you belong to. We’re defined as- Born Again Believers!**

•14And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:14-15

•Some of you are still outside of Christ because you have made it difficult. Churches have made this difficult-Preachers...

•**Numbers 21-Murmured/Fiery Serpents. Look and LIVE!**

☑ **16** For God so loved (THE Motivating factor) **the world that He gave His only begotten**

• **Son** (Begotten- Do you want to know what God thinks? Look at Jesus.), **that WHOEVER believes in Him** (v.36) **should not** (Choice) **perish** (destroy/WE ARE/current state/v.19-21) **but have everlasting life** (absolute fulness of life). **17** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. **John 3:3-17**

• **All the world religions can be placed in one of two camps: legalism or grace. . . .**

• A legalist believes the supreme force behind salvation is you. If you look right, speak right, and belong to the right segment of the right group, you will be saved. The brunt of responsibility doesn't lie with God; it lies within you. . . **"The result?"** Look closely. Something is missing. *What is it?* Joy. *What's there?* Fear. (That you won't do enough.) Arrogance. (That you have done enough.) Failure. (That you can't do enough). . .

• **Grace?- God Did It!**

☑ **God's gospel has a "whoever" policy.**

• Jesus could have so easily narrowed the scope, changing **whoever into whatever**. "Whatever Jew believes" or "Whatever woman follows Me." But He used no qualifier. The pronoun is wonderfully indefinite. *After all, who isn't a **WHOSOEVER**?* JUST BELIEVE.

• **When the Thief died.- Angel-** "What are you doing here?" "I don't know." "What do you mean you don't know?" "I don't know." "Excuse me, let me get my supervisor." They go get their supervisor angel. "So, just a few questions for you. First of all, are you clear on the doctrine of justification by faith?" The guy said, "I've never heard of it in my life." "And what about the doctrine of Scripture?" This guy's just staring — and eventually, in frustration,

[the supervisor] says, "On what basis are you here?" And he said, "The Man on the middle cross said I can come."

• **Salvation is God's business.** Grace is His idea, His work, and His expense. He offers it to WHOEVER!

There's more. Your default hasn't changed! He must be LORD!

• I believe. So does the devil. NEW DEFAULT!

• 6That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." John 3:6-8

• Possibly as Jesus and Nicodemus were talking, they heard the wind moaning along the narrow streets.

• Imagine standing in a forest. You can't see the borders. Then the leaves start to shake and the trees start to bend and bow. They are being moved by the unseen. Moved by the WIND.

• "Nicodemus, being born of the Spirit is like your experience with the wind. You can see the wind's effect, but not the wind itself." With those who are born again, the *effects of the Spirit are visible in their lives, even though the Spirit cannot be seen.*

• Can't control the wind. You can't PUSH the wind. But the wind CAN Move you!!

Does no good to change directions unless I change who's holding the controls.

• How to not be born again....do nothing!

• Personal responsibility to believe

• Responsibility to tell of the gospel