

The Greatest Love

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True Equity and the Greatest Love / John 3:1–21

In order to enter the kingdom of God, you must be born again of the spirit through the work of God by believing in and coming to the light, Jesus Christ.

Notes

03/17 John 3:1-21, "The Greatest Love" Subtitle: Enter the Kingdom, Scripture: Eph. 2:4-7

How to have deeds that show that they have been forged by God.

Truly, truly I say to you (*Amēn, amēn, legō soi*): The phrase "*Amēn, amēn, legō soi*" appears frequently in the New Testament, particularly in the Gospel of John. It is a transliteration of the Greek phrase "Ἀμὴν ἀμὴν λέγω σοι" (*Amēn amēn legō soi*), which is often translated as "Truly, truly, I say to you" or "Verily, verily, I say unto thee" in English Bibles.

The significance of this phrase lies in its use by Jesus Christ. In the Gospel of John, Jesus often prefaces important teachings, pronouncements, or revelations with this phrase. By repeating "*Amēn*" (or "Amen" in English), Jesus emphasizes the truth and importance of what he is about to say. The doubling of "*Amēn*" adds a sense of **solemnity and certainty** to his words, indicating that what follows is of utmost importance.

This phrase underscores the authority and authenticity of Jesus' teachings, as it suggests that what he is about to say is not merely his own opinion or speculation but carries **divine truth and significance**. It signals to the listener or reader that they should pay close attention to what follows, as it is a fundamental aspect of Jesus' message or revelation.

Three divine truths that lead to the most important choice one can ever make.

In order to enter the kingdom of God, you must be born again of the spirit through the work of God by believing in and coming to the light, Jesus Christ.

You cannot enter the Kingdom of God unless you are born again (John 3:1-3)

John: Tyndale NT Commentary: An Introduction and Commentary (i. Jesus' Conversation with Nicodemus (3:1-15))

To 'see' the kingdom is synonymous with entering the kingdom (cf. 3:5). Jesus' Pharisaic contemporaries believed all Jews would enter the kingdom of God through resurrection on the last day, the only exceptions being those who denied the faith and committed acts of apostasy (Mishnah, Sanhedrin 10:1-4). To be born a Jew was to be an inheritor of the kingdom of God. Nicodemus would have been astounded by Jesus' statement that he as a Jew would not see the kingdom of God unless he were 'born again'.

Being born a Jew is not what determines entrance into the kingdom of God. Instead, entrance into the Kingdom of God depends upon being born of the Spirit. Not birth in the flesh, but birth in the Spirit. Not human birth, but spiritual birth.

You cannot enter the Kingdom of God unless you are born of the Spirit (John 3:4-8)

Four Views:

1. Baptism of repentance (John the Baptist) and Baptism of the Spirit

(Jesus)

2. Christian water baptism and spiritual regeneration
3. Natural birth and spiritual regeneration
4. Spiritual regeneration alone depicted as a double metaphor (ex. "nice and warm")

Jesus' meaning is explained by v. 6.

The wind: unity in diversity, singularity in origin (the Spirit).

You cannot enter the Kingdom of God through your own power (John 3:9-15)

Man cannot ascend to heaven on his own, it demands the work of Christ on the cross.

There was Jewish speculations about "revealers" who ascended to heaven and returned with revelations for those on earth (e.g. Abraham, Moses, Enoch, Isaiah). Jesus was correcting their faulty bibliology and at the time underscoring their dilemma (c.f. Prov. 30:1-5).

Everyone must choose either to believe and live in the light, or fearfully hide in darkness (John 3:16-21)

"Life" or "Eternal life" (synonymously used in John) is found 36 x's in 32

verses.

- Jesus did not come into the world to judge (John 3:17)
- Jesus came into the world so that the world might be saved (John 3:17)
- Mankind's natural state of existence is that of having already been judged (John 3:18)
- Those who believe in Jesus are freed from that judgment (John 3:18)
- Only the birth of the Spirit that is forged by God has the power to grant escape from judgment and the gift of eternal life (John 3:19-21)

What choice have you made - what choice do you make today?

In order to enter the kingdom of God, you must be born again of the spirit through the work of God by believing in and coming to the light, Jesus Christ.