

John 3

John 3:1 Nicodemus. Strict, religious, a leader.

2 Came to Jesus at night. Private investigation. He recognized that Jesus was a teacher come from God. The miracles He did confirmed this. He was seeking further teaching to assure him that he was right with God.

3 "I tell you the truth" stresses the absolute importance of what He was about to say. "No one can see the Kingdom of God". A spiritual Kingdom, unlike the kingdoms of this world. A kingdom in which God is honoured, believed and obeyed. Equivalent to salvation, that is being saved from the guilt, control and consequences of our sins, with the sure hope of eternal life in heaven. "Unless he is born again". A spiritual birth, a new life. An inward change of heart that only God can induce.

4 Nicodemus misunderstands; confuses it with natural birth.

5-7 Jesus makes it clear that it is a second birth, of the spirit and not the first birth of water and flesh.

8 The Lord Jesus compares it to the wind, you cannot see the wind, you cannot control the wind, even so The Holy Spirit of God.

9 Nicodemus is staggered, bewildered by this.

10 He was a teacher of the Old Testament scriptures, he should have had some knowledge of these matters. It is possible to have a certain knowledge without understanding the true significance.

11-13 The Lord Jesus has come to make known and reveal spiritual heavenly truth. No one else can do so, we should listen to Him and believe *what* He says. Up to this point the Lord Jesus has spoken of the experience that is essential if we are to enter the Kingdom of God. Now He goes on to explain the truth about Himself that it is essential that we should *believe* to be saved.

John 3:14 The incident of the snake in the desert is recorded in Numbers. 21:4-9. The people of Israel were travelling from Egypt to the land God had promised to give them. They were murmuring and complaining against God. God sent a judgment upon them in the form of deadly snakes. The people repented and asked Moses to pray for them. The Lord answered, instructing them to make a bronze snake, put it on a pole where it would be visible and anyone who had been bitten could look at it and live. Here the Lord Jesus reveals the means by which God has decided to save and forgive sinners by the gospel. The good news that Jesus was to die for sinners and be lifted up on a cross.

15 “That everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life”.

16 “God so loved the world” - Not just the Jewish nation to which Jesus came in the first instance. “He gave His one and only Son” – to die for sinners. “That whoever believes in Him” – puts their faith in Him. “Shall not perish but have eternal life”. It is eternal death, separation from God, or eternal life with Him.

17 The Lord Jesus did not come on a mission to condemn sinners but on a mercy mission to save them.

18 We are all already condemned because we are guilty, but all who put their trust in The Saviour God sent, are no longer condemned but forgiven.

19 Why are so many sinners reluctant to come to the Saviour to trust and receive Him and the new life? The Light has come and as a result many resent being called condemned sinners, they refuse to acknowledge that they need God’s grace and mercy. They love darkness instead of light.

20 They refuse to have their sins brought out into the light; they prefer self deception rather than honest assessment.

21 On the other hand believers who have come to the light welcome the light because they do not want to be self deceived strangers to themselves but open and honest before God.

John 3: 22-36. John the Baptist’s Testimony about Jesus.

John 3: 22 Jesus and His disciple band went about preaching, teaching and baptizing similar to John the Baptist.

23-24 Who was also continuing to baptize those who confessed that they were sinners. There was much water, that is, the river was deep enough for people to be immersed under the water. Baptists still practice baptism this way.

25 An argument about baptism and Jewish ceremonial washing.

26 Somehow this provoked John’s disciples to be concerned for him. “Master the One you testified about is now baptizing people and more people are going to Him”

27 John replied, “I am satisfied with the role God has given me”.

28 I have already made it clear that I am not the Christ. I am the preparer of the way.

29 He says. It is like a wedding. There is the Bridegroom and the Friend of the Bridegroom. Once the Bridegroom appears, the Friend rejoices because his task is complete.

30 He, the Lord Jesus must become greater I become less, I have accomplished my task.

- 31** Compared to Jesus, John was only a man, whereas Jesus came from heaven.
- 32** He is the one who really knows the truth, the whole truth, but people generally do not listen to Him.
- 33** The person who does accept His word believes the truth of God.
- 34** Jesus' words are the words of God. He is completely one with God.
- 35** God the Father gives The Son control of everything
- 36** There are only two alternatives . All who put their trust in The Lord Jesus have eternal life, spiritual life now, perfect life in heaven hereafter. All who reject the Son will not receive life, instead God's wrath, His righteous indignation remains forever on them.