

The Gospel of John

John 3:1-15

February 22, 2015

Our Gospel Writer's Purpose

To help anyone and everyone to

1. _____ to faith
2. _____ in faith

"These are written so that you may continue ["come"] to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name." ~John 20:31, NLT

Nicodemus, the Kingdom of God, and New Birth

1. Who was Nicodemus?

- Jewish man
- Rabbi (religious teacher), Pharisee (1 of 6,000), member of the Sanhedrin (1 of 70 – Jewish Supreme Court)
- A "who's who" in 1st century Judaism
- Wealthy, probably from a distinguished family

On the Surface

- Nicodemus is "religious" = a distinguished theologian, dedicated to studying and living out every part of the law
- Jesus has gotten the attention of the religious leaders
- Comes to Jesus at night = was he ashamed, afraid, or simply wanted Jesus' undivided attention

Below the Surface

- Nicodemus is baffled and confused
- "Night" is a theological symbol that expresses Nicodemus's spiritual condition = "in the dark" he comes seeking the "Light"
- Jesus is redefining what it means to "in" and the necessity of being "born again"

2. The Kingdom of God

- **The Old View = Membership by** _____
& _____

Judaism taught that there was to be a future kingdom and that all Jews who faithfully kept the Law would be admitted freely

- **The New View = Membership by** _____

& _____

1 – God takes the _____ in the inviting
= everyone is invited!

2 – Response is by _____ through _____
in Christ alone

3 – There is a new _____ for seeing
or entering the Kingdom of God = being "born again"

3. New Birth

"You must be born again." John 3:7, NLT

- A Divine _____ – not submission to a doctrine, not a general statement or condition, but a specific imperative that addresses everyone (personally, directly, & communally) at the core of our existence
- That is _____ = a complete renewal of the whole person by response and repentance
- By _____ and the _____ = the cleansing and strengthening power of Christ which wipes out the past and gives victory in the present and future
- That comes with _____ = being pardoned and received into God's favor
- _____ by real change empowered by the Holy Spirit = New Life, New Will, New Beginning, New Capacity
- And _____ by faith, hope and love = how we live out | practice a life of responsiveness to God in joyful answerability to God

APPLICATION

"And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life." John 3:14-15, NLT

- The _____ for eternal life is a response
- How did Nicodemus respond?
- How do you respond?

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