



Salvation

By Taylor Braswell January 11, 2024

TODAY'S READING: John 3

Nicodemus, like many others who encountered Jesus, was missing the central message of the Old Testament. Nicodemus and the other religious leaders of the day believed you were a part of God's kingdom if you were born a Jew and if you followed God's commandments. Jesus is trying to show Nicodemus that it is not what we do outwardly that saves, but it is what we believe inwardly. When Jesus says we must be born of water and spirit, he is referring to Ezekiel 36:25-27, which says, *"I will also sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurities and all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will place my spirit within you and cause you to follow my statutes and carefully observe my ordinances."*

You become a part of God's kingdom when God gives you a new heart, new desires, and His Spirit. Church, John 3:16 can only be understood as good news when someone understands the bad news. Jesus did not come to condemn the world because the world is already condemned! We are all born sinful and none of us deserve the kingdom of God. There is nothing we can do to get into God's kingdom on our own either. I deserve eternal punishment for rebelling against the creator of the universe. When God opened my eyes to see His glory, he saved me and gave me a new heart! My belief in Christ is not a result of working harder than others or studying more. God changed me from the inside out because He is gracious and merciful. I am no longer condemned because Christ stood in my place to take the wrath I deserve. If we are not careful, we can sometimes be just like Nicodemus; he had Ezekiel memorized but missed the truth right in front of his face. God is not interested in what we can bring to His kingdom, he wants us to rest in what He has

already done. This truth should motivate us to live as citizens of heaven while we are still on earth.

PRAYER: Father, thank You for giving me new desires and affections. Thank You for opening my eyes to see the truth of the gospel. Help me not to miss what you have clearly revealed to me through Your Word. Empower me to show others how You made a way for salvation.

TOMORROW'S READING: John 14

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