

Gospel of John – Chapter Three

Review

Chapters 2-4

- New wine – 6 pots (imperfection of law) wine Gods abundant grace
- New temple – temple tax unjust, Court of the Gentiles, Temple made without hands
- New birth
- New water
- New worship

Nicodemus

- A Pharisee (one of 6000)
 - Believed in the inspiration of scripture
 - Believed in coming Messiah
 - Believed in miracles
 - Believed in the Resurrection
- A member of the Sanhedrin (70)
- The “teacher” of Israel – highly respected
- Wealth (one of 4 wealthiest in Jerusalem – Talmud records this)
- Became a disciple of Jesus
- Biblical Reverences
 - Visit by Night – John 3
 - Defends Jesus at Sanhedrin – John 7: 51-52
 - Permission to bury Jesus (John 19:39-42)

WE KNOW – Plural suggests he was inquiring on behalf of a larger group

How do you know if a teacher is FROM GOD?

1 John 4:1-6

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth

2 John 6-10

⁶ And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. ⁷ For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. ⁸ Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we^[a] have worked for, but may win a full reward. ⁹ Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, ¹¹ for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

Unless you are “born again” you can not see (perceive) the kingdom of God.

Born from above – spiritual rebirth

Regeneration – New Creation

- Not reformation of the old man
- Not mending an old heart
- But becoming a new creation
- 2 Corinthians 5: 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.^[b] The old has passed away; behold, the new has come
- Consequence of eating the forbidden fruit – you shall surely die
- Ephesians 2: 1-5 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body^[a] and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.^[b] ⁴ But^[c] God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved
- Partakers of the divine nature: 2 Peter 1:4

Born of Water and the Spirit (Pneuma)

Ezekiel 36: 25-28

Serpent in the wilderness (Numbers 21: 4-9)

- Serpent was symbol of sin
- Brass a symbol of God’s judgment
- Sin judged

2 Corinthians 5:21 – Jesus made to be SIN FOR US

Eternal Life given a moment of believing in Jesus

John 3:16

- God Greatest being
- So loved Greatest affection
- The world greatest object of His love (us)
- He Gave greatest act
- His only Son greatest treasure
- Whosoever greatest group – all included
- Believes greatest trust
- In Him greatest object of our faith
- Should not perish greatest deliverance
- But have greatest assurance
- Everlasting greatest promise
- Life greatest blessing

Not to condemn – Romans 8:1-2

Salvation in Christ Alone: Acts 4:12

Only two categories – believers or non-believers (willful rejection of truth)

Loved the darkness (fully given over to it; AGAPE vs AGAPAO)

Exposed by “deeds” – hate the light, do evil; love the light does truth – deeds manifest

John the Baptist

- He must increase and I must decrease
- Friend of the bridegroom
- I am not the Christ
- I was sent before Him to proclaim Him
- He comes from above
- Father has given all things to the Son
- He speaks the words of God
- He gives the Spirit without measure
- Believe in Him you have Everlasting Life
- He who does not obey the Son(believe) shall not see life– wrath of God abides on him