

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD  
JOHN 3:11-21

WE ARE IN THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN IN CHAPTER 3. NOT ONLY IS THIS GOSPEL THE MOST READ AMONG THE GOSPELS BUT CHAPTER 3 IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PORTIONS OF SCRIPTURE IN THE BIBLE. JESUS IS SHARING REVELEATORY TRUTHS WITH A MAN NAMED NICODEMUS. NICODEMUS IS A PHARISEE (RELIGIOUS ELITEST). HE IS A MEMBER OF THE SANHEDRIN (RULER OF THE JEWS) SO HE'S WEALTHY AND POWERFUL. ONE WOULD THINK NICODEMUS HAD EVERYTHING ANYONE WOULD EVER NEED TO BE CONTENT, BUT HE DIDN'T. HE WAS MISSING THE MOST VALUABLE GIFT A HUMAN CAN HAVE, A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. YOU SEE, RELIGION, GOOD DEEDS, AND MORALITY ALONE CAN NOT EARN ANYONE A PLACE IN GOD'S KINGDOM. IT IS BY GRACE, THROUGH FAITH, IN CHRIST ALONE THAT ASSURES SALVATION TO MANKIND. NICODEMUS COMES TO JESUS AT NIGHT TO MEET WITH HIM AND GET SOME ANSWERS. LAST WEEK WE BEGAN TO STUDY THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO. NICODEMUS ACKNOWLEDGES THAT JESUS IS FROM GOD BECAUSE OF THE MIRACLES JESUS HAS BEEN PERFORMING AROUND JERUSALEM, BUT HE HAS YET TO BE BORN AGAIN. JESUS EXPLAINS THAT ONE MUST BE CLEANSED BY AND FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BE BORN AGAIN. THERE ARE TWO UNRECONCILABLE TRUTHS AT WORK. NO ONE CAN COME TO FAITH IN CHRIST UNLESS THE FATHER FIRST DRAWS THEM AND SALVATION IS 100% AND ACT OF GOD. ALSO TRUE, MANKIND IS 100% RESPONSIBLE FOR THE

DECISIONS THEY MAKE AND WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD FOR THEM. TODAY WE CONTINUE STUDYING THIS PROFOUND INTERACTION BETWEEN JESUS AND NICODEMUS THAT INCLUDES THE MOST QUOTED AND WELL-KNOWN SCRIPTURE IN THE BIBLE. LET'S GET STARTED

John 3:11-21 NIV

<sup>11</sup>Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup>I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup>Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. <sup>19</sup>This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

John 3:11 NIV

<sup>11</sup>Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony.

AMEN AMEN / IT IS AND IT SHALL BE SO 2X EMPHATIC

JESUS MAY BE ALLUDING TO JOHN THE BAPTIST AND THE OTHER OT PROPHETS WHEN HE SAYS “WE”  
EITHER WAY, JESUS IS SAYING “I KNOW AND HAVE TESTIFIED TO WHAT I HAVE SEEN”

TESTIMONY OR “WITNESS” DOES NOT POINT TO OPINIONS THAT MAY BE DEBATED, BUT TO OBJECTIVE FACT

John 1:11 NIV

<sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

NON-ACCEPTANCE OF THIS TESTIMONY WAS NOT A PASSING REFUSAL BUT A HABIT

John 3:12-13 NIV

<sup>12</sup>I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.

EARTHLY THINGS – THE NEW BIRTH/REGENERATION HERE ON EARTH

HEAVENLY THINGS – THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE FATHER TO THE SON, THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S KINGDOM, HIS ETERNAL PLANS OF REDEMPTION

JESUS IS GIVING HIS CREDENTIALS – “I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS LIVED IN THE GLORY OF THE GODHEAD”

THE FIRST ADAM WAS FROM EARTH, THE SECOND IS FROM HEAVEN BUT JESUS CALLS HIMSELF SON OF MAN BECAUSE OF HIS HUMANITY

John 3:14-15 NIV

<sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

JESUS IS ELUDING AGAIN TO THE OT WHILE TESTIFYING TO HIS OWN CRUCIFIXTION

Numbers 21:4-8 NIV

<sup>4</sup> They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; <sup>5</sup> they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”<sup>6</sup> Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites

died. <sup>7</sup> The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup> The Lord said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.”

THIS WAS A SHADOW OF WHAT CHRIST WOULD DO FOR HUMANITY. CAN YOU IMAGINE SOMEONE ARGUING, “I DON’T WANT TO LOOK AT THE SNAKE, I WANT TO LOOK AT A CACTUS”. “IF GOD WAS GOOD, HE WOULD LET ME LOOK AT WHATEVER I WANT AND STILL SAVE ME”

THE ISRAELITES LOOKED TO THE BRASS SERPENT AND LIVED WHEN A PERSON KEEPS THEIR EYES FIXED ON JESUS, THEY LIVE FOREVER

John 3:16 NIV

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

GOD LOVED AND HE GAVE REDEMPTION IN THE SON MONOGENES/UNIQUE, NO ONE LIKE HIM THIS IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ETERNAL LIFE IN CHRIST AND ETERNAL DEATH IN HELL

THE IMPORTANT THING ABOUT ETERNAL LIFE IS NOT IT’S QUANTITY, BUT IT’S QUALITY. IT IS NOT AN ENDLESS

DURATION OF BEING IN TIME, BUT BEING OF WHICH TIME IS NOT A MEASURE. ETERNAL LIFE IS LIFE IN CHRIST

PERISH/APOLLYMI/THAT WHICH IS RUINED, NO LONGER USABLE FOR INTENDED PURPOSE, TO DESTROY BUT NOT TO CAUSE ONE TO CEASE TO EXIST, LOSS OF WELL-BEING

NATURAL LIFE CAME BY GOD'S BREATH, ETERNAL LIFE COMES BY CHRIST'S DEATH

John 3:17 NIV

<sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

JESUS DID NOT COME FOR JUST THE JEWS, HE CAME FOR EVERYONE

HE DID NOT COME TO EXECUTE A CONDEMNING SENTENCE TO A SPIRITUALLY DEAD WORLD, BUT SALVATION FOR MANKIND

NEXT TIME HE COMES, HE COMES AS A JUDGE THAT WILL MOST CERTAINLY EXECUTE JUDGEMENT

John 3:18 NIV

<sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

THIS IS TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN.... JESUS SAVES THOSE WHO BELIEVE AND ARE BORN AGAIN. SO, THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE AND REJECT THE GIFT OF SALVATION IN JESUS CHRIST, STAND CONDEMNED ALREADY

John 3:19-20 NIV

<sup>19</sup> This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.

EVIL/PONEROS/ACTIVELY HARMFUL, HURTFUL EVIL IN EFFECT OR INFLUENCE

EVIL/PHAULOS/WORTHLESS EVIL (PRESENT TENSE)

JESUS CHRIST IS THE LIGHT THAT SHINES ON MANKIND'S SINFUL NATURE. THIS IS WHY PEOPLE REJECT HIM, THEY LOVE THEIR SIN. THEY PREFER MORAL DARKNESS AND HATE THE LIGHT OF TRUTH. THEY LOVE PRIDE MORE THAN INTEGRITY. THEY LOVE PREJUDICE MORE THAN FAITH

John 3:21 NIV

<sup>21</sup> But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

THIS IS A LIFESTYLE OF HABITUAL OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD  
THIS DOES NOT REQUIRE PERFECTION. JESUS IS DESCRIBING  
DIRECTION (TOWARD THE LIGHT RATHER THAN DARKNESS)

THIS WHOLE LIFE OF LIVING BY THE TRUTH CAN ONLY BE  
ACOMPLISHED BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD

WE MUST DEPEND ON AND TRUST FULLY IN:

1. GOD'S WRITTEN AND SPOKEN WORD
2. THE GUIDANCE, CONVICTION, AND POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
3. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST THAT SAVES FULLY AND COMPLETELY

END