

JOHN 3 Study (NLT) "SAVED"

November 22, 2009

Vineyard Church • Great Falls • Montana

• **THE MAIN POINT:** Jesus is the answer for seekers of God like Nicodemus.

The Father was causing people now to come to His Son. (John 6:37)

3:1 _____ came to Jesus at _____, probably because he was afraid his associates (the Pharisees who hated Jesus) would find out. He was a seeker of God. He thought Jesus might have answers because only God could do the _____, which he did.

NICODEMUS - (a seeker of God). His name means "Conqueror of the people." He was a well-educated man, a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin, the council of 70 that was the governing body of Israel. He was also a seeker of God. He may have become a believer. He joined Joseph of Arimathea who was also a member of the Sanhedrin in burying the Lord in Joseph's tomb. He brought 100 pounds of the spices that were used. (John 19:38-42) Every kind of person is attracted to the Savior of the world.

3:3-8 Jesus knew that Nicodemus was seeking to know God in a more real way. Nicodemus would not be able to know God (who is spirit) because his spirit (with its ears, eyes and comprehension) was mostly dead. (Isaiah 6:9-10) So Jesus said you need to be _____ -- born of the _____ (V8) if you want to see the world of God.

BORN AGAIN - 3:8 BORN OF THE SPIRIT (V8) We are a spirit that lives in a body. The body is born through the mother's womb. The spirit is born of the Holy Spirit. The human spirit is for all practical purposes dead because the sin nature is on us from the womb and sin kills the spirit. The first resurrection actually is the resurrection of the human spirit when Christ imparts Himself to it. We are born again not only as compared to the physical birth, but also as compared to the time when Adam and Eve were born the first time as a spirit in God's image. (Genesis. 1:16-17)

WIND - A spiritual man is no longer predictable from the human point of view because the Son has set him free from emotional baggage, fear of man, old habits and attitudes, greed for money, and such things. He now operates as a "free agent" except that he is in continual, inner conversation with the Holy Spirit. He walks with the Spirit of God. (Galatians 5:16,18)

3:10 -13 Even though Nicodemus was a respected Jewish _____ with seminary training, his teachers had twisted God's commandments so that they weren't keeping them in order to be greedy, dishonest, big in the eyes of the world. Nicodemus was unable to understand things that were happening here on _____, so how could he possibly believe what was going on in _____.

To the Pharisees Jesus said, "And why do you, by your traditions, violate the direct commandments of God. For instance, God says, 'Honor your father and mother,'" and 'Anyone who speaks evil of their father or mother must be put to death. But you say, 'You don't need to honor your parents by caring for their needs if you give the money to God instead, and so, by your own tradition, you nullify the direct commandment of God. You hypocrites! Isaiah was prophesying about you when he said, 'These people honor me with their lips but their hearts are far away. Their worship is a farce for they replace God's commands with their own man-made teachings.'" Matthew 15:3-9

3:14-15 The things God did in the Old Testament to save his people often previewed and illustrated the work of Jesus. One time Israel bitterly and loudly complained about the Lord. The consequence of this sin was that He sent poisonous serpents among them and many were dying. _____ was told to set up a bronze _____ on a pole. The people who had been bitten were told to come and look on it. When they did, they were healed. The Lord said we can look on him _____ on the cross and _____ in Him and not merely escape from death now but be given _____ life.

SERPENT (Numbers 21:4-9) The bite of the serpent that Jesus heals from is the ancient serpent the devil. (Genesis 3) Jesus came to destroy the work of the devil. He did it by being lifted up, which means being crucified, slaughtered as an atoning sacrifice for sin. "He became sin (on the cross) (he took the bite of the devil) so that we might become the righteousness of God (have right standing with God)." 2 Corinthians 5:21 Without judgment against sin, the devil has no power to accuse or take us to hell with him.

3:16-17 Why did Jesus come to help us? _____ The gods (demons) of religions of the world "take." What does God do? _____ He gives his best and most precious, His only begotten _____. He gives him to _____ in our place. The devil has managed to give Father God a bad reputation—that he _____ and judges and rejects sinners when in fact, He gave His beloved Son to _____ the world.

ONLY - Jesus is "the only" Son of God. John 1:14 He is the same as God. He is Creator along with the Father. John 1:1-3 Hebrews 1:3 He is unique. He is not a mere man. If He were, he would need to be saved like us, and we would all be lost, still in our sin.

BELIEVE - Being born again happens when a person makes a decision to entrust himself or herself to Jesus. It is not enough to say in your mind that you agree that something is true. The devil knows all the facts but he is not born again. The Amplified Bible puts John 1:12 as "To adhere to, trust in, and rely on" Jesus.

JOHN 3 Study (NLT) "SAVED"

November 22, 2009

Vineyard Church • Great Falls • Montana

3:18-21 Common talk about judgment has people standing before the pearly gates and St. Peter sending some through and some down. That is just another fanciful fabrication inspired by the devil and his people allies. The down side of this is that many church-going people just don't know where they are going to end up. Jesus says here, "There is _____ judgment awaiting those who _____ him. But those who do not trust him have (also) _____ been judged for not believing in the _____ Son of God." The reason they don't believe is that -"they love the _____ more than the light, for their actions were _____. Whereas the believer in Jesus "comes to the light _____ so that everyone can see that they are doing what _____ wants." Judgment happens for each person when they meet Jesus. They decide.

3:22-36 When John the Baptist is asked about the Messiah also baptizing and people going over to him, he says Jesus is the _____ and he is the bridegroom's _____.

I am filled with _____ at his success. He must become _____ and greater and I must become _____ and less. He is from heaven _____. I am of earth. My understanding is limited to the things of this _____. He tells what he has seen and heard in _____ - The Father's presence. He was _____ by God. He speaks God's _____. The Spirit of God is upon him without _____ or limit. The Father _____ his Son. He has given Him authority over _____. People actually choose eternal _____ or the _____ of God, depending on whether they accept or reject Him.

What Does This Scripture Say To You? _____