

## John 3

- I. 3:1-21 Nicodemus and Jesus
- II. 3:22-36 John the Baptist and Jesus

- I. 3:1-21 Nicodemus and Jesus

- A. 3:1 *Pharisee* member of the strict, religious, “separated” sect.  
*A ruler of the Jews* a member of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish governing body.
- B. 3:3 Jesus doesn't waste any time.
- C. 3:5-6 A person must experience not only a physical birth, but a spiritual re-birth in order to enter the kingdom of God.
- D. 3:8 It's possible to experience the effects of the wind without understanding it. So it is with the Spirit – you can be born of the Spirit, “born again”, without understanding exactly how the Holy Spirit works.
- E. 3:14-15 Here is the story Jesus is referring to:

*Numbers 21:5-9 (NKJV) <sup>5</sup>And the people spoke against God and against Moses: “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.” <sup>6</sup>So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.*

*<sup>7</sup>Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.*

*<sup>8</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.” <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.*

- i. The people in the wilderness were saved not by escaping the fiery serpents or by finding a medicine to counteract the venom, but by an act of faith – looking at a bronze serpent that Moses had put on a pole.
- ii. In the same way we are saved from our sins by faith. We are reconciled to God, when we turn in faith to Jesus for forgiveness. When He was “lifted up” on the cross, He became sin for us.

*2 Corinthians 5:20-21 (NKJV) <sup>20</sup>Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

F. 3:16 The Gospel in One Verse

- i. **God** is the initiator of the whole process.
- ii. **Love** was His motive.
- iii. **The World** was the object of that love.
- iv. **God gave His only begotten Son** as a result of the love He had for the world.
- v. **Whoever believes in Him** receives the benefit of that loving, giving act of God.
- vi. **Should not perish**                      Those who believe are saved from eternal destruction.
- vii. **But have everlasting life**              Those who believe receive everlasting life.

*John 17:3 (NKJV) And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

- G. 3:18 *is condemned already* The person without faith is guilty before God and therefore is condemned by his or her sin. Faith in Christ rescues us from our guilt.

II. 3:22-36 John the Baptist and Jesus

- A. 3:29 John saw himself as the *friend of the bridegroom*. Jesus is the Groom. We, the church, are the bride. John saw himself as the “best man”.

B. 3:30 Discipleship in One Verse

- i. The irony of the Christian life: The more we grow in Christ, the bigger Jesus gets.
- ii. How? He gets bigger:
  - a) As we begin to grasp what He meant by, “Without Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)
  - b) Each time we experience that we “can do all things through Christ” who strengthens us. (Philippians 4:13)
  - c) Whenever we trust more in His wisdom than our own understanding.
  - d) Every time we consciously submit to Him as our Lord.
  - e) When we sincerely say, “Not my will but Yours be done.”
  - f) Because we depend more on His grace than our own goodness to please God.
  - g) Every time we realize that we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

C. 3:31 *above all* 2x in one verse

*John 1:1 (NKJV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.***

*Philippians 2:9-11 (NKJV) <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

That's what “above all” means.

D. 3:36 Compare with 3:18.

*“The verb translated **has** is in the present tense. The one who **believes** has eternal life as a present possession. Likewise, the one who refuses to believe on Christ has the **wrath of God** abiding on him or her as a present reality.” – The Nelson Study Bible*

Conclusion: Other verses relating to the new Birth

*2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

*1 Peter 1:3-5 (NKJV) <sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy **has begotten us again** to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

*1 Peter 1:22-23 (NKJV) <sup>22</sup>Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, <sup>23</sup>**having been born again**, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.*