

Text: John 3

Study Outline

- I. The New Birth (vss 1-8)
 - a. Nicodemus came at night to inquire of Jesus (vs 1)
 - i. Nicodemus was a Pharisee
 - ii. Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews— A member of the Sanhedran, the highest legal, legislative and judicial body among the Jews (NET Bible note)
 - iii. Why do you think Nicodemus came to Jesus at night?
 - b. Nicodemus opens his inquiry of Jesus with statements affirming his understanding of Jesus' identity
 - i. Rabbi (vs 2)
 - ii. You are a teacher come from God (vs 2)
 - iii. No one can do these signs (miracles) unless God is with him. (vs 2)
 - iv. Was Nicodemus a seeker or a skeptic?
 - c. Jesus response (vs 3):
 - i. "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."
 - ii. Reflection questions:
 1. What did Jesus mean by "born again"?
 2. What did Jesus mean by "the kingdom of God"?
 - d. Nicodemus needed clarity (vs 4)
 - e. Jesus expounds (vs 5-8)
 - i. Unless one is "born of water and the Spirit" he cannot enter the kingdom of God.(vs 5)
 - ii. "That which is born of flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (vs 6)
 - iii. Jesus compares the move of the Spirit in a believer's rebirth to that of the movement of the wind. What are the potential implications of this analogy?

- II. The New Life (vss 9-21)
 - a. Nicodemus needs more clarity (vs 9)
 - b. Jesus points him to a spiritual interpretation vs an earthly interpretation (vs 12)
 - c. Jesus provides a correlation with a type of deliverance from sin found in Moses's time with the deliverance He is bringing (vss 14-15)
 - d. The crux of the gospel of Jesus Christ (vs 16-21)
 - i. The promise of new life found in the love of God (vs 16)
 - ii. The purpose of the Christ coming – not to condemn the world but that the world could be saved. (vs 17)
 - iii. The power of Christ's coming—our belief or faith in Him (vs 18)
 - iv. The paradox of Christ's coming – light has come into the world but people loved darkness rather than light (vs 19-20)
 - v. The practice of the gospel – in this new life, do the truth by coming into the light to show deeds done in God (vs 21)
- III. The Renewed Declaration (22-36)
 - a. John was baptizing in Aenon (vss 22-24)
 - i. Aenon was in Judea, near Salim
 - ii. Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea and baptized people also.
 - b. The dispute over baptism (vss 25-26)
 - i. According to vs 25 what was the dispute about?
 - ii. According to vs 26, what else could the dispute have been about?
 - c. John's (re)declaration of Jesus (vss 27-36)
- IV. Application and Implications
 - a. What is the major application of the text to our lives today?
 - b. What are key implications for living this new life in Christ?