

**SPRING QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017**  
**THEME – SURVEYING THE MAGNITUDE OF GOD’S LOVE**  
**UNIT II – THE FELLOWSHIP OF GOD’S LOVE**

**“GOD’S LOVE SAVES AND SAFEGUARDS THOSE WHO RECEIVE HIM”**

**Sunday School Lesson No. VI - April 9, 2017**

**Lesson Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III - Pastor-Teacher**



**Lesson Text:** John 3:1-21

**Required Reading:** John 3:1-21

**Lesson Motto Texts:** John 3:3, *“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

John 3:16, *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*

**Reliable Resources:** Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living by UMI; Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Children’s Ministry Research Bible; Understanding the 66 Books of the Bible by David Jeremiah; Analytical Bible Expositor; Life Application Study Bible; The John Phillips Commentary Series; The Outline Bible by Dr. H. L. Willmington

**Introduction**

Our lesson brings us to a late night meeting between Jesus Christ and a ruler of the Jews named Nicodemus. There have been numerous arguments as to why this man sought the Master under the cover of darkness, but to no satisfaction can one find a true legitimate argument other than to thank God, he came to Jesus. It was from this late night encounter that we have received the greatest message of love from the heart of God – John 3:16, *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* Nicodemus was called from an extraordinary circumstance. He had read and been bred on the nature and traditions of the religions of Israel. He appeared to be among the elite of his day in the knowledge of Hebrew history and prophetic expectations concerning a coming Messiah. Reflections on the activities and teachings of the prophet John the Baptist enlisted the thoughts of this sincere seeking man to make further inquiries of the Lord Jesus Christ. From his conversation with Jesus, we will gather truths that will transform the theology of men forever! Beloved, we will learn from Nicodemus that a person’s predisposition is no match for the facts, which are disclosed from the heart and mouth of the Lord Jesus Christ.

What has been your predisposition concerning the Lord Jesus Christ and true biblical salvation? Let us examine the lesson before us and discover **God’s Love Saves and Safeguards Those Who Receive Him.**

**Anticipated Power Points:**

- **First Birth Versus the New Birth. John 3:1-5**
- **Facts of the New Birth. John 3:6-13**
- **Foundation of the New Birth. John 3:14-21**

**OUTLINE**

**Nicodemus’ Life Encounter with Christ teaches Lessons Concerning the...**

**I. First Birth Versus the New Birth. John 3:1-5**

**A. The first birth is temporary but the new birth is eternal. vv. 1-3**

**B. The first birth is by parents’ choice but the new birth is by personal choice. v. 4**

**C. The first birth ends in separation but the new birth ends up with the Saviour. v. 5**

Romans 6:23, *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

**II. Facts of the New Birth. John 3:6-13**

**A. The new birth is unnatural. vv. 6-7**

The Lord Jesus expresses to the master teacher of Israel that the new birth is not your every day baby birth. It is being born in an unnatural way, or simply being born from above or anew, or by Divine means. Nicodemus was being challenged to look above his earthly learning and see that God’s ways are far above man’s. Many mistake the act of water baptism with the act of being born again, but that would nullify the sacrificial work of Christ on the cross.

Ephesians 2:8-10, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Titus 3:4-7, “But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

**B. The new birth is unexplainable. vv. 8-10**

I Corinthians 2:14, “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” Nicodemus fell into this category, for he was trying to understand the things of the new birth by simply using his common sense. I must confess that there are some things to which we can use our common sense, but not here! By Jesus’ use of the wind, we should readily see that the workings of the Holy Spirit are unexplainable. Dr. A. W. Pink gives the comparison of the Holy Spirit to the wind as follows:

The wind, like the Spirit is:

1. Irresponsible – Sovereign in its action.
2. Irresistible – Sweeping everything before it.
3. Irregular – Sometimes soft or roaring.
4. Invisible – We cannot see it.
5. Inscrutable – Mysterious in nature.
6. Indispensable – We must have it.
7. Invigorating – Energizing and reviving.”

**C. The new birth is uncompromising. vv. 11-13**

Even with the dullness of the mind of Nicodemus, Jesus implies that there can be no compromise. His presentation of earthly illustrations left the teacher in a state of confusion because it takes faith to receive the teachings of Christ.

Hebrews 11:6, “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

**III. Foundation of the New Birth. John 3:14-21**

**A. It was symbolized. v. 14**

(Read the story of the brazen serpent in Numbers 21.)

**B. It’s a worthy substitute. vv. 15-16**

Without the person of Jesus Christ, there would be no eternal (quality) or everlasting (quantity) life. He is our Salvation, our Kinsman Redeemer, our Sinless Sacrifice. Isaiah 53:4-5 tells us, “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

**C. Its welcomed stability. vv. 17-21**

The new birth is built on the unchanging Word of God. II Peter 3:9, “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

**Closing:**

Beloved, I don’t know what your predisposition in life has been concerning the new birth, but I pray that you realize **YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN!** Whether you are educated or illiterate, **YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN!** Whether you are wealthy or a pauper, **YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN!** John 3:7 reiterates, “Marvel not that I said unto thee, *Ye must be born again.*” I close with the story of Whitefield’s conversion. George Whitefield at the age of 16 became deeply convicted of sin. He tried everything possible to erase his guilt through religious activity. He wrote, “I fasted for 36 hours twice a week. I prayed formal prayers several times a day and almost starved myself to death during Lent, but only felt more miserable. Then by God’s grace I met Charles Wesley who put a book in my hand which showed me from the Scriptures that I must be ‘born again’ or be eternally lost.”

Finally, by the work of the Holy Spirit in his heart, Whitfield came to understand Jesus’ words in John 3. He believed and was gloriously saved. After he became a preacher, he spoke at least a thousand times on the subject, “**Ye must be born again.**” He fervently desired that all who heard him might experience the transforming power of God’s grace. – *Our Daily Bread*

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LOOKING AHEAD: April 16, 2017 John 20:1-10

Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway as Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.

