

# The Gospel of John

3:10-21

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John.  
Last week we ended with Nicodemus asking Jesus.

✠ **John 3:9** *Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"*

Remember Jesus was speaking of being born again and explaining what He meant by this. Jesus was speaking of being born of the water and the Spirit, and also speaking of the Holy Spirit and how we cannot see Him, but that we feel the effects of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Jesus' first response to Nicodemus question was.

✠ **John 3:10** *Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?"*

Simply put, you could say, "Have you been studying the scriptures for all these years, been prepared for this ministry of teaching, and learned they ways of God's law and you don't understand what I'm talking about?"

The religious leaders were trained from their youth to memorize the scriptures, and were also given man's laws, which were added to God's law. They spent so much time bound to these laws of man with all their restrictions that they never knew God, the God they were supposed to be teaching the people about.

You can read and re-read the bible hundreds of times in your life time, but if you don't know the God of the bible, then His words are nothing to you. There will be no change in your life, no victory over sin, and you will continue to live like the world, or even appear to be religious, but you are really as Jesus put it in "***Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.***" **Matt 23:27**

You look good on the outside, but spiritually, you are dead! Tough words, but words some of you, and I need to hear.

All the religious leaders looked good on the outside, they wore the right clothes, said the right things, and followed the traditions of men, but their hearts were hardened and they could not hear the Lord even though He was right there speaking to them face to face.

You may go to church, or read through these studies or listen to teachings on TV, the radio or the Internet, but your heart has become so hardened and callused to God's word that it has no effect on you any longer. The altar call comes but you turn your back on the Lord and it doesn't affect you anymore like it used to. You here the messages of how you

need to change but you just brush them off continuing in your sins. That's a very dangerous place to be, it was the same place the religious leaders were, except for one, who was Nicodemus. He knew something was missing from his life, even though he knew the scriptures and laws and the ways of the religion he was teaching. He came to Jesus to find that thing he was missing and that's why he was here this night. Because with all his knowledge, he still had no relationship with God, which he wanted. So Jesus continues on with.

✎ **John 3:11-12** *Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?*

Most commentaries I read say that Jesus was speaking of Himself, and John the Baptist as well as other believers when he said "We".

I understand this and could accept this, but I think that Jesus is speaking of Himself, the Father and the Holy Spirit.

✠ **John 8:17-18** *It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true. I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me.*

John the Baptist also testified of this:

✠ **John 1:32-34** *And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."*

God told John about Jesus, Jesus was told what to do by God. The Holy Spirit bore witness of Jesus. The signs that Jesus did testified of who He was. The teaching Jesus gave was testimony that He was the Messiah and sent from God. The religious leaders had seen and heard all of these things, yet they did not believe as Jesus said, "*and you do not receive Our witness.*"

Jesus also gave an example of heavenly things and He described it in a way that we could understand by using earthly things. Remember last week?

✎ **John 3:7-8** *"Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

Being born again is a heavenly thing, because it cannot happen by earthly means, only through Jesus Christ who is in heaven and allowed by the Father in heaven to happen.

So Jesus explained it in an earthly sense to help Nicodemus understand but still he didn't get it.

✠ ***If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?***

Jesus could not explain it in a heavenly sense, because Nicodemus couldn't even understand when Jesus explained it in an earthly sense.

If you read the book of Revelation, Daniel and Isaiah, these men tried to explain heavenly things and what they had all seen in heaven, but it was so awesome and beautiful that no matter how hard they tried to explain it using things on the earth that we could understand, it still didn't bring justice to what they saw.

Here are a few examples.

✠ ***Isaiah 6:1-4 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.***

✠ ***Dan 10:4-9 Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris, I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude. And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength. Yet I heard the sound of his words; and while I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.***

✠ ***Rev 4:2-11 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. The first living creature was***

*like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within.*

*And they do not rest day or night, saying:*

*"Holy, holy, holy,*

*Lord God Almighty,*

*Who was and is and is to come!"*

*Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:*

*"You are worthy, O Lord,*

*To receive glory and honor and power;*

*For You created all things,*

*And by Your will they exist and were created."*

You may read these like I do and say, "WOW, heaven is too cool!" But we have no idea until we get there, how cool heaven really is!

So you can understand that if Nicodemus could not understand when Jesus gave him earthly examples, he certainly couldn't understand if Jesus told him of heavenly things.

Jesus goes on to say:

✠ **John 3:13-15** *No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*

Jesus was referring to what happened when the children of Israel were being lead out of Egypt into the Promised Land.

✠ **Num 21:4-9** *Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. 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." So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.*

*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. 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." 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.*

The children of Israel started grumble about the way God was taking care of them, they even referred to God's provision of food as they said, "***our soul loathes this worthless bread.***"

Before you get too hard on these people, think about what God has done in your life, and how many times you grumble at God because you don't think you have enough or that He isn't taking care of you the way you think He should be doing.

God did punish the people for their act of rebellion against God and Moses, by sending snakes that would bite the people and they started to die after they were bitten. But God also forgave them and gave them a way of escape because they repented of their sins and turned back to God.

All they had to do was simply look at the serpent on the pole and they would be healed. Sound too easy? But believe it or not, many did not look and died.

It seems God always makes it easy for those who choose to repent and turn to Him. With the children of Israel, it was the serpent on the pole and they just had to look at it to be healed. For us today, it's Jesus on the cross and we only need to look to Jesus for salvation. No work involved, because Jesus did it all on the cross for us.

✠ **John 19:30** *So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*

So Jesus was telling Nicodemus that as the children of Israel believed on the serpent on the pole for healing as God instructed them to, so to be born again you must believe in God's only begotten Son, Jesus who will be lifted up on the cross.

✠ **John 3:16** *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

This is what it's all about. God loves you so much that He was willing to allow His Son Jesus to be beaten, spit upon, whipped, His beard pulled from His face, huge spikes to be driven through His hands and feet, crowned with the crown only the world could offer the King of kings, which was a crown of thorns, two to four inches long jammed onto His head, and left there to die. But even worse, they mocked Jesus as He was there on the cross, paying for their sins and yours and mine also.

God knew all of this, but still God loves you and me so much that He allowed Jesus go through all of this, because He wants us all to be with Him in heaven for all eternity. God also made it very simple, did you read it?

✠ **"Whoever believes in Him"**

Just as all they had to do was look at the serpent, all you need to do is believe in what Jesus did for you on the cross.

God does not hate you and He doesn't want to condemn you just as Jesus goes on to say.

✠ **John 3:17** *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

God wants to forgive you, but you must ask first!

Maybe you do feel condemned, the reason may be once again as Jesus says:

✠ **John 3:18-21** *He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.*

Jesus, Who is that light, came to this world, but men rejected Him and hated Him because they loved their sins!

Today people will not turn to Jesus because they love their sins. They ask, *“If I become a Christian will I have to give up women and partying and alcohol and drugs and pornography and my favorite soaps on TV, and that guy they lust after, and...?”*

Asking these questions prove what Jesus said, ***“Men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”***

People love their sins too much, no matter who it hurts or destroys. They are willing to lose their family for a fling, lose their homes to drugs or alcohol or even gambling, lose their friends to lies and gossip, lose their lives to sin for all eternity!

Sin is fun for a short time, I know that personally, but I also know how it hurts yourself and others that you love and care about. God knows this even more than I do, because He is all knowing! But still you choose to reject His Son, Jesus for a short bit of fun here on this earth, willing to have an eternity of pain as payment for your short time of fun.

But if you turn to Jesus you will have to give up some things like, loneliness, broken hearts, hangovers, addictions, sexual disease, wasting money, friends who only care about you for what they can get out of you, eternity in hell, hurting your family and loved ones, believing the lies of satan, eternal separation from God!

We could go on and on, but the choice is yours. I have made the choice to believe in Jesus and I am ready to spend eternity with Him in heaven as soon as He says it's time. But before I go, I know it won't be the same without you there too. God knows this too, and that's why you may be feeling a sense of urgency to stop reading this, because the enemy, the devil doesn't want you to believe all of this, but God does, and that's why you haven't stopped yet.

Take it from the mouth of the one who did it for you, JESUS!

✠ **John 3:16** *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

Jesus is saying in a sense that:

*My Dad loves you so much even though you messed up big time, rejected Me and Him all of these years, that He was willing for Me, His only Son to die for you so that we could spend eternity in heaven together.*

John 3:16 are not the words of John, but of Jesus, will you reject Him and his words, or accept Him? If you accept Jesus' words now, all you have to do is tell Him in a prayer like this one.

***Jesus, I admit I am a sinner. I believe that God sent You to die for my sins and that You paid for all of them on the cross. Thank You for dying for me so that we could spend eternity together in heaven. I also believe that You not only died, but that You rose from the dead and that You are waiting for me in heaven right now. Please fill me with your Holy Spirit and may I tell others about You so that they can join us all in heaven together some day. I ask this in Your name Jesus. AMEN!***

Now that is too cool!

To add to this coolness, go and tell someone what you just did and keep on believing and praying and reading your bible every day. Find a good church to go to so you can grow as a Christian and you will find some new friends there to. Better get used to them because you will be with them in heaven forever!

Maybe you don't want to believe or didn't pray this prayer or any prayer yet. Remember what Jesus said.

 ***“For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.”***

If a flower is never exposed to light, it will die, and no one will see its dead petals and leaves because of the dark. But as soon as it is exposed to light, those dead leaves and petals start to fall off and new healthy green leaves and beautiful colorful petals start to show. But only when it is exposed to the light can this happen.

Sure, your sins will be exposed to God (But He sees them anyway) and maybe to others as well. But as you turn to Jesus, those sins (Old dead leaves and petals) will start to go away and a new you will start to grow (Healthy green leaves and colorful petals). But first you must turn to Jesus!

Well, that's it for this week, next week we will finish chapter three (God willing) as we read more of John the Baptist and more of his testimony of Jesus.

May the Lord bless thee and keep thee in all your ways as you follow Him!