

Jesus Instructs Nicodemus on Spiritual Birth

John 3:1-21

Intro: Nicodemus, a leader of the Pharisees, comes to Jesus to ask Him the question of the ages, “*what must I do to insure eternal life?*” Nicodemus represented the works-based religion of his day. The Pharisees taught that obedience to Judaism, i.e., the Laws of Moses as contained in the Torah, would guarantee one’s entrance into the Kingdom of God. Jesus tells Nicodemus that, “unless one is *born again* or *from above* by the power of the Holy Spirit he cannot see the Kingdom of God” (3:3, 5-8). Jesus goes on to explain that, *eternal life is the free gift of God, given to all who believe in His Son Jesus Christ* (3:14-16).

I. Nicodemus Questions Jesus About Entrance Into God’s Kingdom 3:1-2

- A. Nicodemus’ identity: *a Pharisee, and a ruler of the Jews* (v. 1)
- B. Nicodemus’ question: “*How do I enter God’s Kingdom?*” (v. 2)

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TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

II. Jesus Responds by Detailing the Need for Spiritual Birth 3:3-15

Believe in Jesus Christ

- A. Spiritual re-birth is a work of God’s Spirit (vv. 3-13)
- B. Jesus’ purpose for coming as illustrated from Numbers 21:4-9 (3:14-15)

III. Jesus Came Into the World to Save Men From God’s Judgment 3:16-21

- A. Those who believe in Jesus Christ will not perish but receive eternal life (v. 16)
- B. Those who do not believe in Jesus Christ remain in a lost condition (vv. 17-20)
- C. Those who believe in Jesus Christ are identified as those that (v. 21):
 1. *Practice the Truth*
 2. *Come to the Light (Jesus Christ)*
 3. *Manifest works wrought in God*

Applications:

1. **For the unsaved:** *Have you ever personally asked Jesus Christ to come into your life, in order to save you from the penalty of sin and death, and to give you eternal life?*
2. **For the saved:** *Have you asked the Holy Spirit to form Christ in your heart, and to make you the person He wants you to be?*