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## Bible Study—Gospel of John—Chapter 3

Scriptures listed are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

### **John 3:1**

***There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus. A ruler of the Jews.***

Nicodemus was the ruler of the Jews, he was also a member of the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin consisted of seventy-one members. The high priest was the Sanhedrin's president in the New Testament. The council members were drawn mainly from the leading priestly families and the religious instructors known as "scribes" or "teachers" of the law. Rabbinic tradition links the origin of the central Sanhedrin with the seventy elders who assisted Moses in the wilderness.

By including both of these groups, the Sanhedrin was composed of both (priestly) Sadducees and (scribal) Pharisees.

### **John 3:2**

***The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto Him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God; for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.***

Nicodemus secretly came to Jesus during the night. He was

a Pharisee and a teacher.

When he first came to Jesus, he was just a religious leader, but as time passed he became one of Jesus' followers. He was at the Crucifixion and he boldly and publicly stood as a disciple of Jesus.

### **John 3:3**

***Jesus answered and said unto him **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*****

To be born-again one must receive salvation in their heart and not by their emotions. Emotional salvation will not last long, but when salvation has been accepted within the heart the persons' life will change. Their actions will no longer be the same because the Spirit of Jesus has entered their heart and given them a new heart and spirit to worship the Father in spirit and in truth. This can't be accomplished in human efforts, it's done only by the Spirit of the Living God. This Spiritual birth comes by faith in Jesus Christ and what He's done for us at the Cross.

### **John 3:4**

***Nicodemus said unto Him, How can a man be born***

***when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?***

Although Nicodemus was a spiritual leader, he didn't understand the spiritual meaning of what Jesus was saying. He was looking at the natural rather than the spiritual. According to the Bible, Scripture is spiritually discerned (***But the natural man received not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned-1st Corinthians 2:14.***)

This is why so many professing Christians are living opposite of the Word of God because they received salvation by guilt, and fear and not by the heart. When salvation is accepted in the heart the individuals life will change to comply with the Word of God.

### **John 3:5**

***Jesus answered, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*****

Jesus was referring to water baptism. Water is to be understood as a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Water also could be un-

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derstood as the Word of God (Ephesians 5:26).

This transformation is a new birth or heavenly birth that comes only by the Spirit of God. Kingdom of God is the inner kingdom, this voluntary acceptance submits to the rule of God. Whoever servant you are, that's the one you will submit to.

### John 3:6

*That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

That born of flesh is speaking about physical or natural birth. Spiritual birth is solely of God. This is when you will see a manifestation of the persons' spiritual birth. Actions they use to do they no longer have a desire to them because their heart, spirit and mind has been transformed by the Spirit of God.

In order to worship God in spirit and in truth; He and His Son has to be dwelling within our being.

### John 3:7

*Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*

After hearing Jesus explanation about being born again, Nicodemus must have had a surprising look, this is why Jesus said "Marvel not".

### John 3:8

*The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and*

*whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.*

Jesus used the wind as an illustration of the work of the Holy Spirit. As the wind blows where it wills, so the Holy Spirit sovereignly works. No one knows the origin or destination of the wind, but everyone knows it is there, and the same is true of the Holy Spirit. When one has been born of the Spirit there is a connection with others that has been born of the Spirit because it's the same Spirit.

### John 3:9

*Nicodemus answered and said unto him. How can these things be?*

Nicodemus was a leader, but he was not born of the Spirit he couldn't grasp what Jesus was saying.

### John 3:10

*Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master [teacher] of Israel, and knowest not these things?*

Jesus answered Nicodemus' question, but first He rebuked Nicodemus for being a teacher of the Hebrew Scripture and not knowing about spiritual birth. Sadly, to say many professing Christians misinterpret Scripture because either they have not been born of the Spirit, or they have not taking the time to read and study Scriptures.

### John 3:11

*Verily, verily, I say unto thee. We speak that we do*

*know, and testify that we have seen: and ye received not our witness.*

Jesus was not only speaking of Nicodemus not knowing the Scriptures, but He was also speaking about the other Pharisees as well. Jesus is speaking about the Word of God and is directing Nicodemus to that source rather than tradition. When one receives the Word of God, it will begin to cleanse them and others will see the manifestation of God's Word at work in them. Only the Word of God can transform a person from secular to spiritual.

### John 3:12

*If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?*

Earthly things refers to things that occur on earth, like the new birth, the wind, and miracles. Heavenly things refers to events like Jesus' ascension, the coming of the Holy Spirit, and Jesus' return for the church.

### John 3:13

*And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.*

Although people say they went to heaven, Jesus is saying no one has ascended to heaven, but Him which came down from heaven. Just as He descended from heaven, He will be returning to heaven.

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### **John 3:14**

***And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up.***

Every time the word “lifted up” occur in the Gospel of John there is a reference to Jesus’ death. When Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness those who looked at it lived. The serpent represents Satan who is the originator of sin. “Son of man lifted up”, refers to Jesus being nailed to the Cross, He is the only One that can defeat Satan and sin. When we place our trust in Him, he will enable us to defeat Satan and sin.

### **John 3:15**

***That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.***

When a person places their trust in Christ and will continue to trust and keep His commandments, he or she has become born-again and will receive eternal and spiritual life, God’s kind of life.

### **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.***

Love is both an attribute of God and description of His being. He alone is the epitome of divine love and the source of all true love. His love is unconditional, it can’t be purchased,

and it can’t be earned. He will love those who others will not love. When the love of God has been placed in our hearts, there is no one we will not love. We may not love their actions, but we will love them unconditional as our Father has loved them.

### **John 3:17**

***For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.***

At Jesus first coming, He came so that the world through Him might be saved. At His second coming, He will come in judgment upon those who refused His offer of salvation. True salvation is a heart changed, the person does not continue to practice sin, they are submitted to God’s written Word and they seek to please Him.

### **John 3:18**

***He that believeth on Him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.***

To believe is to receive life and avoid judgment. Believe in His name occurs three times in the Gospel of John. Name does not refer to the term by which He is called, but to what His name stands for (the Lord is salvation).

### **John 3:19**

***And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved dark-***

***ness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.***

Condemnation is the reason for judgment. The light refers to Jesus who had no darkness in Him. Jesus is an example to professing Christians how they should live their lives and that is to do God’s will. If you never read or study the Word of God, how do you know if you’re living according to His will? The Word of God should be applied to our lives daily, then we will be living according to His will.

### **John 3:20**

***For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.***

People use many excuses for not accepting Jesus. Some say because of the hypocrites in the church. Others claim inability to believe some of the truths about Christ or the gospel. These are excuses to conceal a heart rebellion against God and against His Christ. The ultimate reason people do not come to Jesus is that they do not want to.

### **John 3:21**

***But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.***

The one who does the truth is obviously already a believer because his or her deeds are done in God.

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Therefore, coming to the light is more than exercising faith. A person who comes to the light not only believes, but also openly identifies with the light so that his or her works can be seen as things done in union with God.

True believers are on display whether they know it or not. What they do reflects what people will not only think about them, but what they will think about all people professing to be Christians. This is why it is so important not to live a life of hypocrisy.

### **John 3:22**

***After these things came Jesus and His disciples into the land of Judea; and there He tarried with them, and baptized.***

Jesus didn't baptize, but His authority was given to His disciples to perform the baptisms. Baptism is only effected when the individual heart has been spiritual changed. If the heart has not been changed neither will the person be changed. Secondly, you don't have to be baptized to receive salvation. The thief on the cross didn't get off the cross to be baptized, but yet Jesus told him ***"Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with Me in paradise—Luke 23:43.*** Baptism is an outer expression of your faith to other that a spiritual change has occurred.

### **John 3:23**

***And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there and they came and were baptized.***

While Jesus disciples were baptizing in Judea, John and his disciples were baptizing in Aenon. John was working with Jesus not competing.

### **John 3:24**

***For John was not yet cast into prison.***

John didn't stop ministering as some think after Jesus came into His ministry, but he continued his ministry until he was placed in prison.

### **John 3:25**

***Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying.***

The disciples of Jesus and the disciples of John were both baptizing people, as a result, a question arose. The question came from John's disciples when they entered into a discussion with the Jews regarding purification. Purification here refers to baptism.

### **John 3:26**

***And they came unto John and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan to whom thou barest witness, behold the same baptizeth, and all men come to him.***

John the Baptist was only called Rabbi in the Book of John. Rabbi is translated as teacher, it's a title for an officially ordained teacher and master of the law. John's disciples were afraid that John was losing his audience

to another preacher, "Jesus". They didn't understand that John was preparing the way for Jesus. Meaning John's teaching was preparing the people's heart for Jesus.

### **John 3:27**

***John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.***

John the Baptist clarified the relationship between himself and Jesus. John explained that he could not accept the position of supremacy that his disciples wanted to place upon him. Because he had not received it from heaven.

### **John 3:28**

***Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before Him.***

John the Baptist reiterated what he has previously told his disciples about his mission before Christ. He was to prepare the way for Jesus, admonishing the people to repent of their sins.

### **John 3:29**

***He that hath the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom which standeth and heareth Him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.***

In explaining why people were flocking to Jesus, John the Baptist pointed out the bridegroom receive the bride. John compared himself to the friend of



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the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom was to make sure everything was properly prepared for the bridegroom and the wedding. When the friend of the bridegroom finish his job, he had to get out of the way. His joy came because of the success of the bridegroom. John the Baptist was the voice calling people to repentance, John was Jesus' friend and cousin.

### **John 3:30**

***He must increase, but I must decrease.***

John the Baptist insisted that Jesus had to increase in popularity and that he, John had to decrease.

John explains that Jesus had to increase because of His divine origin, His divine teaching and His divine authority. John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus, and Jesus came to save His people from their sins.

### **John 3:31**

***He that cometh from above is above all, he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.***

He who comes from above refers to Jesus, He that is of the earth is speaking of John the Baptist. John explains his earthly origin and its limitations. On the other hand, Jesus is from above and is above all.

### **John 3:32**

***And what he hath seen and heard, that He testifieth; and no man receiveth His testimony.***

What He had seen and heard refers to that which Jesus received from the Father which testified of Him. No man receiveth means no man contributed to His testimony, but that it was all from God. No man apart from God's work in him or her can accept Jesus. Jesus told His disciples, no one could come to Him unless the Father draws them (John 6:44).

### **John 3:33**

***He that received His testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.***

In a society where many could not read, seals were used to convey a clear message, even to the illiterate. A seal indicated ownership to all and expressed a persons' personal guarantee. To receive Jesus' testimony is to certify that God is true regarding what He has sealed. Those who have been born of the Spirit has been sealed with the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption, meaning when Jesus return for His church.

### **John 3:34**

***For He whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure to Him.***

Refers to Jesus who always spoke the mind of God and therefore, the Word of God. Everyone who received the Holy Spirit received it in

measure, but Jesus had the Spirit in totality, He didn't receive it in measure as godly men and women received it.

### **John 3:35**

***The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things unto His hand.***

God not only gave Jesus in His humanity, the Holy Spirit, He also gave Him all things, including the authority to give life and judge.

The phrase into His hands signifies the Son's authority over the use of all things. The Father loves the Son refers to the incarnation, and what Jesus would do to redeem humanity.

### **John 3:36**

***He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.***

The word "hath" is really "has" and its in the present tense. The one who believes has eternal life as a present possession. Likewise, the one who refuses to believe in Jesus has the wrath of God abiding on him or her as a present reality. There is only one way to be saved and that is accepting salvation that Jesus has to offer to everyone.

Salvation comes only by Jesus, the Son of God, its not in Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Islam, Judaism, Jehovah Witness, Mormon, etc., The Bible admonish the believer not to transgress by believing another doctrine.



*Hopefully this Bible commentary will help you to understand the Bible and assist you with your walk with the Lord.*

*If you have not received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, all you have to do is ask God to forgive you of your sins. Let Him know that you are aware that you have not submitted yourself to the Lord or His doctrine. Ask God to forgive you of your sins. Ask Him to save you, tell Him you accept His salvation by His Son.*

*If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, if you believe that Jesus died for your sins. If you believe that He was risen from the grave. Then you are saved.*

*Confess with your mouth that you're saved.*

### ***Romans 10:9-11***

*That if thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

*For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

*For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed.*

*If you have truly accepted salvation, your heart and spirit has been changed. You will feel the cleanliness within your spirit and heart. Now it's your responsibility to read the Word of God, pray, fast and submit yourself to the Word of God. If you can attend worship service at church or at your facility, you should attend to be strengthen spiritually. As you submit yourself to the doctrine of the Bible you will see a change in your character and attributes.*

*You can't receive salvation and stay the same. That was the reason Jesus died so that you would be free from the bondage of sin. You can't change yourself, He will change you, if you allow Him.*

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walk in victory!***