

**JESUS IS THE ONE  
WHO BRINGS LIFE**

John 2:23-3:36

# INTRODUCTION

- John 3 Includes one of the most significant and well-known conversations in the Bible.
- Jesus explains to Nicodemus His mission and how one gains a relationship with Him.
- John the Baptist explains his relationship to the ministry of Jesus Christ.

**WE MUST RECOGNIZE  
OUR NEED FOR NEW LIFE**

*JOHN 2:23-3:15*

# NEW LIFE

- In this passage, Jesus explains to Nicodemus the need for the second birth.
- More and more people are hearing about Jesus - who He claims to be and what He is doing.
- Nicodemus comes to Jesus wanting to know just what it is about the person Jesus that is different.
- He calls him “rabbi” - he knows he is a teacher and that he came from God.

# NEW LIFE

- Jesus confronts Nicodemus by telling him he must be born again.
- Notice that Jesus doesn't spend any time telling him who He is nor does He show him any sign.
- He goes directly to the key issue: how he should respond to the direct claims of Jesus.
- Nicodemus may be a religious man - but he too needs to be born again.

# NEW LIFE

- Jesus isn't talking about a physical rebirth but the need for a spiritual rebirth: one that cleanses and renews.
- Nicodemus represents humanity: all of us need this.
- In the confusion of Nicodemus, Jesus mentions Moses and the snake in the wilderness (Number 21).
- For the children of Israel, looking on the snake gave them physical life (healed from snake bite).

# NEW LIFE

- God is doing the same thing, not just for Israel, but for the whole world.
- God the Father lifted up His Son so that we might be healed of sin.
- Application: Signs and wonders don't convert. Jesus knew the temporary excitement based on signs was not sufficient. Some of his early followers turned back (John 6:60-66) when he didn't become a King.

# NEW LIFE

- Application: Being religious doesn't equal spiritual salvation. Nicodemus was no doubt a wise and learned man, but he did not understand what it meant to be born again.
- Application: What Jesus teaches about the Holy Spirit (John 3:8) is actually a wordplay. The Greek word *pneuma* means both wind and Spirit. The work of the Spirit is invisible and mysterious like the blowing of the wind. We cannot control either.

**WE MUST GIVE OUR LIFE  
TO JESUS**

*JOHN 3:16-21*

# ETERNAL LIFE

- Jesus explains how to gain eternal life.
- The gospel can be summarized by John 3:16. God's grace is fully displayed in His Son and mission.
- The next verse reminds us that God did not send His Son to condemn the world but to save it.
- Belief in Jesus brings eternal life. Believe in Him and you have light and life. But many in the world hate the light and do not come into the light.

# ETERNAL LIFE

- Application: The famous passage John 3:16 actually connects to John 3:15. Eternal life comes from believing in Christ.
- God's love of Israel (seen in the Old Testament) shows His love for "the world." It is open to "whosoever" believes in Christ - not just Jews.
- Application: Double-edge invitation - those who trust in Christ "will not perish." God's gift of grace also is a warning of judgment.

**WE MUST MAKE OUR LIFE  
ABOUT JESUS**

*JOHN 3:22-36*

# LIFE IN JESUS

- An argument is about to break out between two ministry teams regarding the popularity of one of its leaders.
- We know from history that people were still following the principles of John the Baptist twenty years after the resurrection of Jesus.
- There were two different baptismal groups, headed by two different leaders in two different cities.

# LIFE IN JESUS

- John the Baptist's disciples were concerned that many were following Jesus and not John.
- John states that he is simply a servant of Christ.
- He explains that a decision for Jesus brings life, and refusing Him brings death.
- John the Baptist counts it all joy to serve Christ (friend of a bridegroom was an assistant who acted on behalf of the bridegroom in the wedding).

*THE BASICS  
OF SALVATION*

*JOHN 3:16*

# THE FOUR D'S

- Danger: our perishing - "that we might not perish."
- Design: God's love - "For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son."
- Duty: our faith - "that whoever believes on Him might not perish."
- Destiny: our eternal life - "that whoever believes on Him might not perish, but have eternal life."

# WHAT IS PERISHING?

- Perishing means we are under the wrath of God:
  - Verse 18 - “He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already.”
  - Verse 36 - “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

# WHAT IS PERISHING?

- Perishing means torment in hell.
- In Revelation 14:10, John describes perishing like this:
  - “He will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.”

# WHAT IS PERISHING?

- Perishing means separation from God.
- Paul describes perishing in 2 Thessalonians 1:9
  - “These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”
- Paul also teaches that today is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2). Don't put off an invitation to salvation. Don't put off telling others about salvation.

# WHY PERISHING?

- Why are we perishing?
  - Romans 3:23 - "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
  - Romans 6:23 - "The wages of sin is death."
- All have sinned, and sin deserves punishment.
- We are surrounded everyday by people who do not realize that they are perishing

# GOD'S DESIGN OF LOVE

- God exists:
- The verse begins with these words: “For God”
- Jesus teaches us that there is a God.
- Jesus teaches us that everything relates to God.
- In fact, everything that Jesus does relates to God.

# GOD'S DESIGN OF LOVE

- God has a Son:
- “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son”
- Jesus teaches us God has one “only begotten Son.”
- The angels are called “sons of God” (Job 1:6), and we Christians are called “sons of God” (Romans 8).
- Jesus is the “only begotten Son” - C.S. Lewis quote.

# GOD'S DESIGN OF LOVE

- God loves:
- “For God so loved”
- Jesus teaches us that the God who exists loves.
- John teaches (1 John 4:8) that “God is love.”
- Jesus concludes (John 17:4) that He glorified the Father “on the earth, having accomplished the work which you gave me to do.”

# GOD'S DESIGN OF LOVE

- God loves the world:
- Romans 5:8 - "But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us."
- God gave His only begotten Son to a world of rebels and pagans who are sinful and perishing.
- This is the evidence that God loved this world.

# DUTY: FAITH

- A duty to believe - “whoever believes in him”
- John 3:36 - “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”
- Believing is our link to the love of God.
- The world is divided into two groups: those who believe in Jesus and those who don't.

# DUTY: FAITH

- Belief is in the present tense:
- John 3:16 says - “that whoever believes [not has believed] on him might not perish.”
- The present tense in Greek is an ongoing, continuous action.
- The question is not “did you once believe in Jesus in the past?” but rather “do the believe in Jesus today?”

# DUTY: FAITH

- Jesus is the object of our faith:
- John 3:16 says - “whoever believes in him”
- Is it belief in the Father or belief in the Son?
  - John 5:24 - Father - “He who hears my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life.”
  - John 3:26 - Son - “He who believes in the Son has eternal life.”

# DESTINY: ETERNAL LIFE

- Eternal life is in Christ:
- John 1:4 - "In him was life, and that life was the light of men."
- John 14:6 - "I am the way, the truth, and the life."
- Eternal life is in the life of the Son of God.
- We receive eternal life as a gift (John 17:2; 10:28).

# DESTINY: ETERNAL LIFE

- Eternal life comes through the Word of Christ:
- John 6:68 - "To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."
- John 1:1 and 1:14 - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God . . . and the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us."

# DESTINY: ETERNAL LIFE

- God draws people to Himself through Christ:
- John 6:44 - "No one can come to me unless the father who sent me draws him."
- In our sinful state (John 3:20), we don't want to come to the light and seek the darkness.
- God opens our eyes to our need for Him.

# DESTINY: ETERNAL LIFE

- We receive eternal life through believing in Christ.
- Jesus is the way (John 14:6) to eternal life.
- Jesus says (John 15:5) - "I am the vine you are the branches."
- We are united to him the way a branch is united to a vine.
- His eternal life flows into us.

# DESTINY: ETERNAL LIFE

- We have eternal life now:
- Jesus says in John 5:24 - “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”
- We don't receive eternal life in the future. We already have it now.

# JOHN 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

