

### John 3 The New Birth

Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; 2 this man came to Jesus at night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

3 Jesus responded and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a person be born when he is old? He cannot enter his mother’s womb a second time and be born, can he?” 5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

6 That which has been born of the flesh is flesh, and that which has been born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it is coming from and where it is going; so is everyone who has been born of the Spirit.” 9 Nicodemus responded and said to Him, “How can these things be?”

10 Jesus answered and said to him, “You are the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 11 Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you people do not accept our testimony. 12 If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

13 No one has ascended into heaven, except He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. 14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 so that everyone who believes will have eternal life in Him.

16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him. 18 The one who believes in Him is not judged; the one who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19 And this is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the Light; for their deeds were evil.

20 For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light, so that his deeds will not be exposed. 21 But the one who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds will be revealed as having been performed in God.”

### John the Baptist’s Last Testimony

22 After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea; and there He was spending time with them and baptizing. 23 Now John also was baptizing in Aenon, near Salim, because there was an abundance of water there; and people were coming and being baptized

24 for John had not yet been thrown into prison. 25 Then a matter of dispute developed on the part of John's disciples with a Jew about purification. 26 And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified—behold, He is baptizing and all the people are coming to Him." 27 John replied, "A person can receive not even one thing unless it has been given to him from heaven.

28 You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent ahead of Him.' 29 He who has the bride is the groom; but the friend of the groom, who stands and listens to him, rejoices greatly because of the groom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made full. 30 He must [j]increase, but I must decrease.

31 "He who comes from above is above all; the one who is only from the earth is of the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. 32 What He has seen and heard, of this He testifies; and no one accepts His testimony. 33 The one who has accepted His testimony has certified that God is true.

34 For He whom God sent speaks the words of God; for He does not give the Spirit sparingly. 35 The Father loves the Son and has entrusted all things to His hand. 36 The one who believes in the Son has eternal life; but the one who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Paul's insights and observations

1. Nicodemus is religious, but it isn't working for him, so he looks to see if Jesus has the answers.

2. Notice Nicodemus comes by night, he is aware of the implications of hanging around Jesus.

3. It was both the signs and the teachings that drew Nicodemus to Jesus.
4. When Jesus in scripture said something twice, like, 'truly, truly', it is because He really means it!
5. According to Jesus entry into Gods kingdom requires the rebirth of the spirit of man, in mankind.
6. Nicodemus logic was a reasonable assumption, but Jesus is not talking about the flesh of man but his spirit.
7. What is it to be born of water and spirit?
8. Jesus says 'flesh is flesh and spirit is spirit and soul is soul', so, who are we then?
9. The 'must be born' is a condition of entry, knowing you are a spirit that is bankrupt and well overdrawn!
10. Jesus depicts the spirit to freedom and wind. Baruch is the breath of God.
11. Nicodemus reveals the limitation of many years of learning man's truths!
12. When you say what you know, it means you are fully persuaded and highly developed.
13. A lack of understanding will keep you outside the kingdom of God.
14. Even though something is true, if it is not believed, it can't help you.
15. What are the hearing things that Jesus wants to tell Nicodemus?
16. Jesus Christ is the son of God, the son of man, it is He who has come down and it is He who went back.
17. The bronze wilderness serpent was given by God to save the people from death. Jesus reveals how His death will bring salvation to mankind. The lifting up is the identity as to how He will die.
18. To believe is to hide your life in Christ's teachings and gospel at the judgement.
19. The most common scripture in the bible, known by most people, is John 3 v 16.
20. The idea behind the concept 'perish' is to no longer be fit for purpose.
21. It is God who sent His word to save mankind.
22. To not believe is to reject God's saviour and so position oneself as already judged.
23. Jesus is the beloved Son of God, the light to lead mankind back to God.
24. Rejecting God's saviour is to reveal who you are, a child of evil who desires to live in the darkness.
25. Evil can't live in right and darkness can't live in light.
26. Truth can't live with lies and wrong can't live with right.
27. How would you have liked to have spent quality time in the presence of Jesus on earth?
28. Why do we get baptised?
29. John's baptism, was it different from the baptism of Jesus?
30. Religion always wants to debate truth but is not so keen to obey truth.
31. Look how the religious man talking to John the Baptist, wants to bring a wedge between him and Jesus.
32. John the Baptist knows who Jesus is and he knows who he is – he is secure in

himself and secure in what he is about. Are you?

33. Jesus is the Christ and John the Baptist is he who is to prepare the way for the Christ.

34. John's wholeness and self-satisfaction was to fulfil his role in God's plan for redemption, not to get upset by the elevation of Jesus.

35. True joy is to be doing what you know God wants you to do.

36. John knows how to elevate Jesus above himself, do you?

37. To not receive is to reject, to receive is to accept.

38. Jesus Christ has been given the word by God, to speak it to all of mankind.

39. God loves the Son and all who are hidden in the Son. Being outside the Son is to miss out on receiving the love God has for you. Being in the Son is to embrace God's love.

40. To reject God's love is to reject being in eternity with God forever.