

Series: Great Gospel Invitations
"Salvation Simplified" # 11
John 3:14-18
6-3-18 Sun AM

1. **Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews** came to Jesus by night, seemingly searching for the messiah. Jesus told him that one has to be born again to go to heaven.

In our text, Jesus reveals further spiritual truth to Nicodemus, How can man be born again? How does the new birth take place?

2. Jesus simplifies salvation in these 4 verses or the basis for the new birth.

I. The Sacrifice of Christ (3:14).

1. Jesus parallels his crucifixion to Moses lifting up the serpent in the wilderness.

Turn to **Num. 21:4-9**

2. The OT type teaches that those who look upon Jesus in faith can be saved from the sting of death and sin. They will be saved spiritually and have eternal life.

John 8:28, Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.

Without redemption from sin there is no regeneration. It's very simple, without the sacrifice of Christ there is no salvation...

II. The Love of God (vs. 15-16).

1. "So loved" speaks of God's supreme love or intense love for lost humanity that they might be saved. Once saved the Father bestows a special love on his children.

God does not love men's sins or the wicked world system, but He loves people and is not willing that any should perish.

2. This love motivated God to send his unique son to die for the sinner in his place as a substitute.

3. God wants to give the repentant believing sinner the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life.

I John 4:9-10, In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. (10) Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

This is the first of 17 references to "eternal or everlasting life" in John's gospel. This refers to quantity and quality. The believer will be resurrected and have a heavenly existence in perfect glory and holiness.

We have eternal life at salvation and possess it all the way to heaven. "Have" means it is a present possession at salvation and also means "the life of the world to come."

Phil. 3:20-21 (NASB) For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; (21) who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

I. The Sacrifice of Christ (3:14).

II. The Love of God (vs. 15-16).

III. The Faith of Man (vs. 15-18).

1. Those who believe in Jesus will not perish but have everlasting life, those who do not believe are condemned.

2. Jesus did not come to condemn the sinner because lost man was already condemned- by his grace he wants to give us what we don't deserve, and by his mercy he wants to spare us what we do deserve.

3. He wants to make alive the dead heart, impart life, and turn the sinner to him. He is not willing that anyone should perish, but all come to repentance.

4. What does it mean to believe? 3x told to believe in Him.

"Believe in the name" [v. 18b] means to believe into the name and includes trust and commitment to Christ as Lord and Savior. In the Bible, the name stands for the person. If you trust His **name**, you trust Him.

The believer trusts solely in the redeeming work of Jesus on the cross in redemption. He has confidence of Heaven because he realizes it's not in his work but the work of Jesus on the cross.

MacArthur says, "The believing sinner receives a new nature which produces a change of heart and life that results in obedience.

Close with vs. 19-21- We see why men reject Jesus Christ.

1. They love darkness more than light.

2. They do not want to be exposed by the light.

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