Lesson 3: The New Birth and Faith
John 3:1-36

Believing Faith
• John the Baptist
• Andrew, Philip and Nathanael
• His disciples (2:11, 22)

Sham Faith (2:23-25)
• Many saw His signs and believed in His name
• Jesus did not entrust Himself to them
• He knew their hearts.

What is the difference?
• The new birth
• The Gospel

The outline of John 3
• The new birth (3:1-8)
• The human dilemma (3:9-15)
• The Gospel solution (3:16-21)
• The witness of John (4:22-36)
You must be born again!
John 3:1-8

A man who saw the signs and believed
  • A Pharisee
  • Believed Jesus was a teacher from God
  • A teacher of Israel
  • Did not understand (3:9) spiritual truth (3:12)
  • Nicodemus needed to be born again

What is the new birth?
  • Two possible translations
    – “again” – Galatians 4:9
  • Nicodemus’ confusion
  • Jesus clarifies: not physical birth but spiritual birth
  • Two impossibilities without the new birth
    – You cannot see the Kingdom of God (3:3)
    – You cannot enter the Kingdom of God (3:5)
  • What is the Kingdom of God?
    – Appears only here and John 18:36 (x3)
    – Eternal life
  • The effect of the new birth
    – You can see the Kingdom of God
    – You can enter the Kingdom of God

Conclusion: The new birth is the act of the Holy Spirit by which sinners are enabled to understand and believe – and therefore enter the Kingdom of God.
  • The Spirit and the wind (3:8)
  • The new birth precedes faith
The New Birth in Scripture

A popular term but mostly misunderstood

Biblical Metaphors:
- Birth
  - John 1:12-13
  - 1 John 5:1
  - James 1:18
  - 1 Peter 1:3
  - 1 Peter 1:22-23
- Quickening
  - Ephesians 2:1-8
- Creation
  - 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
- Regeneration
  - Titus 3:5

Biblical Illustrations
- Resurrection of Lazarus
- Paralytic at the pool of Bethesda
How can these things be?
John 3:9-15

Nicodemus is confused

Nicodemus is ignorant
  You do not understand Scripture (3:10)
  You do understand earthly or heavenly things (3:12)

Jesus, the Son of God, reveals truth from heaven.

The key:
  The serpent on the pole – Numbers 21:9.
  The Son of Man on the cross

The Gospel message
John 3:16-21

The fundamentals – John 3:16
  • The love of God
  • The Son of God
  • Faith in Jesus Christ
  • Eternal life
The final witness of John the Baptist
John 3:22-36

Two ministries – John and Jesus]
  • Baptizing
  • A question about purification
  • John: He must increase and I must decrease.

John’s Gospel
  • Jesus is God
  • Jesus speaks truth
  • Jesus gives the Holy Spirit
  • Believe in Jesus Christ and live eternally