

Christ, the Son of God
Studies in the Gospel of John

The New Birth and Faith
Lesson 3
John 3

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
January 21, 2018

Purpose Statement

Therefore many other signs
Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples,
which are not written in this book;
but these have been written
so that you may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God;
and that believing
you may have life in His name.

John 20:30-31 (NASB)

Outline of the Gospel of John

- ▶ The Prologue (1:1-18)
- ▶ The Introduction of Jesus Christ (1:19-4:54)
- ▶ The Public Ministry of Jesus Christ – Mounting Opposition (5-12)
- ▶ The Private Ministry of Jesus Christ with His Disciples (13-17)
- ▶ The Trial and Death of Jesus Christ (18-19)
- ▶ The Resurrection of Jesus Christ (20:1-29)
- ▶ The Purpose Statement by John (20:30-31)
- ▶ The Epilogue (21)

The Prologue (1:1-18)

- ▶ Jesus, the Son of God come in the flesh to reveal God and to save
- ▶ Describes the world into which He came: darkness
- ▶ John came to bear witness to the Light that all might believe
- ▶ Describes the mixed reception and consequences
- ▶ He reveals the glory of God

Introduction (1:19-4:54)

- ▶ John's witness and preparation
- ▶ The Son of God who will baptize with the Spirit
- ▶ Titles of Jesus: Lamb of God, Son of God, Messiah, King of Israel, Jesus of Nazareth, son of Joseph
- ▶ Jesus' title for Himself: Son of Man
- ▶ Wedding miracle: submission to the will of the Father
- ▶ Cleansing the Temple: zeal for His Father's house

“Many believed in His name”

- ▶ Prologue: children of God by belief in His name
- ▶ His disciples believed in Him
- ▶ In Jerusalem: many believed in His name, observing His signs
- ▶ Jesus did not believe in them
- ▶ What is true faith? How can it be?

John 3: The New Birth and Faith

- ▶ Jesus and Nicodemus (3:1-15)
- ▶ Comment (3:16-21)
- ▶ Jesus and John the Baptist (3:22-30)
- ▶ Comment (3:31-36)

Nicodemus Came to Jesus (3:1-2)

- ▶ Light and darkness
- ▶ “There was a man of the Pharisees . . .”
- ▶ “This man came to Jesus by night . . .”
- ▶ “We know you have come from God . . .”

You must be born again (3:3-8)

- ▶ A new birth
- ▶ New birth required:
 - To see the kingdom of God (3:3)
 - To enter the kingdom of God (3:5)
- ▶ The kingdom of God (John 3:3, 5)
- ▶ A future kingdom ruled by Christ, the son of David
- ▶ A kingdom of believers on the earth
- ▶ John prefers to speak of eternal life

Jesus knew what was in man (2:25)

- ▶ Deep darkness (1:5)
- ▶ Blindness to the Gospel of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- ▶ Dead (Genesis 2:16-17; Ephesians 2:1)
- ▶ Hostile to God and unable to please Him (Romans 8:6-8)
- ▶ A valley of dry bones
- ▶ Ezekiel 37:3 – “Son of man, can these bones live?”
- ▶ A hopeless condition

You must be born again

- ▶ Obligation v. Divine decree
- ▶ Greek word: *anōthen*
 - “from above” (3:31; 19:11)
 - “from the top”(19:23)
 - “again” (Gal 4:9)
 - “from the beginning” (Luke 1:3)
 - “for a long time” (Acts 26:5)

You must be born again

- ▶ Born again – different Greek word (1 Peter 1:3, 23)
- ▶ Born of God (1 John 2:29; 3:9; :7; 5:1, 4, 18)
- ▶ Caused us to be born (James 1:18)
- ▶ Quickening (Ephesians 2:1 AV)
- ▶ Creation (2 Corinthians 4:3-6)
- ▶ Regeneration (Titus 3:5)
- ▶ An action by God to overcome “what was in man”

How can this be? (3:4-8)

- ▶ How can I be born a second time?
- ▶ Born of water and the Spirit
 - Ezekiel 36:22-29
 - “sprinkle clean water . . . and you will be clean
 - Replace heart of stone with a heart of flesh
- ▶ Born of the flesh and born of the Spirit
- ▶ An illustration from the wind

How can this be? (3:9-15)

- ▶ How can this happen to me?
- ▶ Requires intervention from heaven
- ▶ An illustration from the Old Testament (Numbers 21:6-9)
- ▶ The Son of Man must be lifted up
- ▶ The look of faith
- ▶ Romans 10:17 – “Faith comes by hearing . . . the Word of God”

Comment (3:16-21)

- ▶ The Gospel – John 3:16-17
- ▶ A world under judgment – unbelief
- ▶ Judgment removed by the only begotten Son of God
- ▶ The test of the Light

Jesus and John the Baptist (3:22-30)

- ▶ The declining ministry of John the Baptist
- ▶ A discussion about purification
- ▶ John's joy
- ▶ "He must increase and I must decrease."

Comment (3:31-36)

- ▶ Jesus brings truth from God (heaven)
- ▶ Jesus gives the Spirit without measure
- ▶ The Father loves the Son and has given all things to Him
- ▶ Jesus: a matter of life and death

The Gospel Truth

- ▶ Deep darkness – unbelief and condemnation
- ▶ The Father sent the Son to give eternal life
- ▶ Believe in the Son of Man Who died on the cross
- ▶ The pursuit of Christ