

John 3:1-15, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - God Shows No Partiality to Earthly Rank. John 1:1-3

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a ruler among the Jews, and possibly a part of the seventy member Sanhedrin, the supreme court and governing parliament of Israel. Yet, earthly accomplishments, reputation, rank, and social status cannot earn eternal life, for God does not show partiality concerning these things (Acts 10:34; Eph. 6:9). To all, including Nicodemus, Jesus proclaims, “You must be born-again”. Read Ephesians 2:8-9

☐ Tuesday - Our Old Nature is Unfixable. John 3:3

Christianity consists in this: That we know our old nature to be unfixable, unreformable, unredeemable and unsavable; that nothing in it can be mended, repaired, or salvaged; and that no self-help class, 12-step program, or new years resolutions can fix it. No, the old man must die and be raised a new creature in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17); “you must be born again,” Jesus declared (John 3:3). The Christian life is not a fixed-up old life, but a whole new life. It is not Christ sprinkled on the old life to add a little flavor, and it is not even inviting Christ to become a part of one’s life. Friend, Christ does not want to be a *part* of your life; He wants to be your life! Read Galatians 2:20

☐ Wednesday - Physical & Spiritual Birth Compared. John 3:3

“Jesus answered and said to [Nicodemus], ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God’” (John 3:3). Our Savior employs the imagery of birth to liken our entrance into the Christian life. Like physical birth, spiritual birth is passive; that is, one has no active role in causing one’s own birth. Those who are born of the Spirit are “born *not* of the will of the flesh, *nor* of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:13). But unlike physical birth which always ends in death, spiritual birth always results in eternal life. And so, here is a riddle that you must unravel: Born once, die twice; born twice, die once. Read John 3:16, 11:25-26

☐ Thursday - Wisdom from on High. John 3:10

After Jesus’ explanation of spiritual birth, “Nicodemus answered and said to Him, ‘How can these things be?’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not understand these things?’” (Jn. 3:10). Nicodemus was supposed to be a religious expert, but he didn’t have a clue about how to get to heaven. The same can be said for the religious leaders of the man-made religions today. But the Son of God came from heaven to earth to show the way, by pointing to Himself. Read John 14:6; Acts 4:12

☐ Friday - Christ: Our Bronze Serpent. John 3:14

When Israel grumbled against the Lord, “The Lord sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ... And Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on the standard; and it came about, that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked to the bronze serpent, he lived” (Num. 21:4-9). Here, in John 3, Christ applies this imagery to Himself, when He declares, “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life” (John 3:14). Christ is our bronze serpent. Bronze is a picture of judgment and sacrifice, for on the bronze altar (Ex. 27) Israel offered its sacrifices for sin (Lev. 1-5). And just as the serpent of old, who is Satan, is kind of a figurehead of the curse (Gen. 3:14-15), so also Christ became a curse for us (Gal. 3:13). Now then, all of us have been bitten by that fiery serpent (Rom. 3:23), who is the devil (Gen. 3:1; Rev. 12:9), but as Christ was lifted up on the cross, so too all those who look to Him shall live. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21