**Book of John Series Ch 3:1-21 Vol 6 New Birth by John McGlone 11/13/16**

**Joh 3:1-36** There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel 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 cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." 9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?10 Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? 11 Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. 12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, *that is,* the Son of Man who is in heaven. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

**Outline for today’s teaching is as follows:**

1. Seeking the Truth
2. First Birth then New Birth
3. Earthly vs Heavenly Things
4. How did God Love?
5. Dark vs. Light
6. Do you Believe Jesus?
7. What do You Love?

**Seeking the Truth**

Nicodemus came to Jesus at night seeking to know more about Him. I believe this is the way most people come to God in the secret place of their heart, they usually are too embarrassed to come openly confessing sin and accepting Jesus’ teachings.

Joh 14:5-7 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. 7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

**First Birth then New Birth**

It’s so clear in this passage about being born of a woman and then born again of the Holy Spirit. How do you mess that up? But, the Roman Catholics, CoChrist, etc. have always taught this wrongly. If you think of the context of entering your mother again as Nicodemus is asking why would you make it sprinkling of water or baptism? What would the devil want to do? He would want to nullify the way to conversion that the lost would not understand.

**Earthly vs Heavenly Things**

Jesus often taught earthly examples of heavenly things. We can glean from Him, “….the Kingdom of Heaven is like….”

**Mat 13:24-30** Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' 28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' 29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' "

An important part of this parable is not pulling up the tares from among the wheat as the wheat will get torn up as well. Now, obviously we must mark and separate false teachers, doctrine, and sin from our lives. We should not keep known sinners in our fellowships if they are unrepentant. But, those that appear to be saints yet are not, the tares, should not be ripped out.

Jesus spoke in parables to hide from those who were not humble and could not hear and understand to those who are and could understand.

I want to use this more in the open air and in my one2ones.

In vs 13 we see Jesus say that no one has gone up to heaven, but He proclaims that He came down and was there. This prophetic idea points to a day after His resurrection in Acts 1 where Jesus then ascends into heaven proving that is exactly where He came from. A supernatural event which would be the last sign that the disciples see him personally do in their presence. Vs. 14 compares the prophecy of Moses lifting up the serpent in the wilderness to both Jesus’ crucifixion and His ascension aforementioned.

**Num 21:5-9** And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for *there is* no bread, neither *is there any* water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. 6 And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. 7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. 8 And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. 9 And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

**Joh 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.

**Joh 12:32** And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me.

**How did God Love?**

**Rom\_5:8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**1Jn\_4:10** In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

*Jesus speaking of Himself on the road to Emmaus.*

**Luk 24:25-26** Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! **26** Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?"

**Mat\_16:21** From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

**Mat 27:26-31** Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered *Him* to be crucified. 27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. 28 And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. **29** When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put *it* on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 30 Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. 31 And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His *own* clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.

*God’s love was and is a suffering love. Love is defined in 1 Cor 13 as being patient or long suffering. To deal with sin and sinners is to be suffering both from God’s perspective and ours.*

**Dark vs. Light**

We see these passages comparing what men love vs what God loves. Men love sin, sin is equated with darkness. God loves the Light which is Jesus Christ and is characterized by purity, holiness, power, illumination, truth, etc.

Does the darkness or sin have a consequence if you abide in it? What do you think it is?

**1Jn 2:15-17** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

**Joh 14:21-24** He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. 22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? 23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. 24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

**Do you Believe Jesus?**

Do you believe every doctrine He taught in the Bible as truth?
That most go to hell? That most burn forever in torment? That no one is good before God? That we all deserve what God describes? Do you believe that God is completely perfect, good, and blameless in all this mess we call the human experience on this planet?

Believe is defined as: G4100 pisteuō *pist-yoo'-o*

From G4102; to *have faith* (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), that is, *credit*; by implication to *entrust* (especially ones spiritual well being to Christ): - believe (-r), commit (to trust), put in trust with.

Total KJV occurrences: 248

**What and Who do You Love?**

If you make the things or the people of this world, including our family, more important than Jesus, you make yourself His enemy, God forbid!

Jas 4:4-6 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. 5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? 6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Joh 15:9-14 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. 11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full. 12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

In conclusion, we must: 1. Seek the Truth 2. Seek New Birth after our first birth 3. Seek Heavenly Things 4. Seek God’s Love 5. Seek after Light and come out of the dark 5. Seek True Belief about Jesus 6. Love God Supremely and our neighbor as we have loved ourselves. 7. If we do these things we will glorify God and enter into that which none of us deserve, His presence forever.