

## SERMON-BASED STUDY: BORN AGAIN

**John 3:1-21, ESV** – Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> 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.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” <sup>4</sup> 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?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

### Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

### QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

## ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This week we learned that to get into the kingdom of God, a person must be born again to a new life. What does it mean to be born again?
- 2 Why do you think this was a difficult concept for Nicodemus to understand? How are people today confused by this concept? How can believers help non-believers understand being born again?
- 3 We also learned that new life is only possible because God loves us. How does this truth effect the way you live your life?

## DIGGING DEEPER

**A** **Acts 2:37-39, ESV** – <sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

**Acts 3:19-20, ESV** – <sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup> that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,

- 4 Looking at the passages above, we see a clear call to repentance. What is repentance? How is repentance different from “being sorry”?
- 5 What must happen before repentance can occur? What is the immediate result of repentance? What is the long-term result of repentance?
- 6 How have you been refreshed from the presence of the Lord?

**B**

**Titus 3:1-11, ESV** – *Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, <sup>2</sup> to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. <sup>3</sup> For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. <sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. <sup>8</sup> The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people. <sup>9</sup> But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. <sup>10</sup> As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, <sup>11</sup> knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.*

**7**

Looking at the passage above, compare and contrast people before they were born again and after they were born again.

**8**

What role does the Holy Spirit play in our regeneration? Share an example of how the Holy Spirit has changed you.

**9**

According to the passage above, someone who is born again will “devote themselves to good works.” What does Paul mean by “good works”? Why are good works a natural outpouring of regeneration?

## TAKING IT HOME

God, out of His love for people, has provided a way to new life through His Son, Jesus. As with any gift, we must receive it before we can enjoy the benefits of it. God’s gift is more than just an opportunity to get into His Kingdom. It is an opportunity to be regenerated and used by Him to bring others into the kingdom. Have you received God’s gift to be born again? If so, how are you doing with “good works”? Share with your group or accountability partner what God has been showing you. Pray for one another as you seek to be used by God through the “good works” He has given you to do.

## PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Numbers 1:4-9

Proverbs 30:4

Ezekiel 36:25-27

Mark 16:16

1 Corinthians 15:50

2 Corinthians 5:17, 21

Galatians 6:15

Ephesians 4:9

1 Peter 1:3-25

1 John 4:9-10, 14