



YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN

AIM: To teach my students the importance of being born again and how to understand more about the process.

INTRODUCTION: "Ye must be born again." These words of Jesus were not understood by Nicodemus nearly 2000 years ago, nor are they understood by everyone today. The words, "born again," have been used a lot in the past few years by the public media. These words were even selected as the title of a book written by a former politician involved in scandal. In our lesson for today, three questions will be answered:

What does it mean to be born again?

How is one born again?

What happens when a person is born again?

I. AN ANXIOUS SEEKER (JOHN 3:1-2, 4,9)

A. The Man (Jn. 7:50; 29:39).

It does seem apparent that he had heard a lot about Jesus before John three takes place; and he may have seen Jesus do some of His works, even the cleansing of the temple recorded in John 2:13-22.

B. His Position

Nicodemus is identified by several terms in John three. (1) Pharisee (verse 1), (2) ruler of the Jews (verse 1), and (3) a master or teacher (verse 10).

C. The Time

For some reason Nicodemus chose to seek Jesus during the night. For Nicodemus to seek out Jesus he had to violate several traditions. Nicodemus realized that Jesus had something special to offer him. Jesus also has something special to offer every person today.

II. THE ALERT SOUL WINNER (JOHN 3:3, 5-8, 10-13).

A. The Man

Nicodemus said nice things about Jesus and Jesus changed the subject. Jesus cut through casual conversation and went straight to the point. Christians, today, miss many opportunities to witness because they get sidetracked and talk too much about other things.

B. The Answer Without a Question (Lk. 10:25; Jn. 3:3).

Nicodemus was a good moral man; he kept the commandments, but this would not help him to even see heaven. Nicodemus was a very religious man, would not

help him to even see heaven. There is no way that any person can hope to see heaven, much less get inside, unless he is born again.

C. The Questions for the Inquirer (Jn. 3:10; Jn. 3:12).

III. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF SALVATION (JOHN 3:14-21).

A. The Model From the Wilderness (Num. 21:5-9).

Jesus then compares this to what was to happen to him. "Even so must the Son of man (Jesus) be lifted up (on the cross), that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." (3:14-15).

B. The Love of God

John 3:16 is one of the most glorious verses in the Bible: God is revealed as the greatest giver; Jesus is declared as the greatest gift; and salvation is proclaimed as the greatest guarantee. (I John 4:8, 16; Rom. 8:38-39).

C. The Importance of Believing

God did His part. He sent His Son. Jesus did His part. He died for all men. Man now must do his part. (Jn. 3:18). Believing must involve a receiving (Jn. 1:12).

MEMORY VERSE: John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*