

## Pillars of Church Health – Gospel Clarity

“Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again.” (John 3:7 HCSB)

**Text:** John 3:1-21

South Orlando Baptist Church

**Topics:** The Gospel, The New Birth

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**Supplemental Text:** See passages below

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Gospel clarity demands that we,

- 1) See who \_\_\_\_\_ really is (vs. 1-2)
  - a. Nicodemus was a member of the Sanhedrin, a governing Jewish body. He was religious, rich, and a ruler.
  - b. Nicodemus questions Jesus at night, most likely because he was afraid to be seen publicly associating with Jesus.
  - c. Nicodemus discerns that Jesus has come from God because of Jesus’ miracles.
- 2) Study how the Old Testament finds its \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus (vs. 3-15)
  - a. Jesus shares many images of the Gospel from the Old Testament as he explains the new birth to Nicodemus:
    - i. The phrase born of water and the Spirit in 3:5 refers to spiritual birth, which cleanses from sin and brings spiritual transformation and renewal. Water here does not refer to the water of physical birth, nor is it likely that it refers to baptism. The background is Ezekiel 36:25–27, where God promises, “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean. . . . And I will give you a new heart. . . . And I will put my Spirit within you.” (adapted from D.A. Carson)
    - ii. The ascending and descending of Jesus (John 3:13) connects to Proverbs 13:4.
    - iii. The title “Son of Man” is a fulfillment of Daniel 7:13-14.
    - iv. The story of the serpent in the wilderness (John 3:14) is told in Numbers 21:9.
- 3) Survive the coming Judgment through \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus (vs. 16-21)
  - a. God sent Jesus to save us, not to condemn us.
  - b. Condemnation will remain on anyone who does not place their trust in Christ.
  - c. Our works will reveal our true faith in Jesus. (vs. 20-21)

## Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message.

- 1) To what group did Nicodemus belong? (3:1)
- 2) At what time did Nicodemus visit Jesus? (3:2)
- 3) Why did Nicodemus believe Jesus was from God? (3:2)
- 4) What is the qualification for seeing the kingdom of God? (3:3)
- 5) What did Nicodemus think Jesus meant when He said that a person must be born again? (3:4)
- 6) What is required to enter the kingdom of God? (3:5-6)
- 7) How did Jesus compare the wind to the Spirit? (3:8)
- 8) Why should Nicodemus have understood what Jesus said? (3:10)
- 9) About what category of things did Jesus say He was talking? (3:12)
- 10) Who did Jesus say had gone to heaven? (3:13)
- 11) How did Jesus compare Moses' snake with the Son of Man? (3:14)
- 12) What is the result of believing in the Son of Man? (3:15, 18)
- 13) How did God demonstrate His love for the world? (3:16)
- 14) Why did God send His Son into the world? (3:17)
- 15) How does the person who lives by truth respond to the light? (3:19-21)
- 16) When would you say you were born again?
- 17) How would you describe what it means to be born again to someone?
- 18) What were some of the circumstances that led you to Jesus?
- 19) What were some of the things that caused you to believe that Jesus is the Son of God?
- 20) Why are spiritual truths often hard to understand?
- 21) What are a few spiritual truths that you struggle to understand?
- 22) How does God's gift of His Son affect our lives?
- 23) How can a person live by the light?