

# **The Gospel of John**

## **Jesus and Nicodemus**

### **John 3:1-21**

Probably the most famous passage in John is the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus. It is the source for many phrases we commonly use, such as “born again”. It is also the source of the most widely quoted and memorized verse, John 3:16.

### **Background**

- Still at Passover feast from John 2.
- Nicodemus
  - Pharisee – strict follower of Mosaic and Oral Law
  - Ruler of the Jews – member of Sanhedrin, religious teacher?
  - Rumored to be one of the three wealthiest men in Judea
- Christ has avoided the crowds, not trusting them – 2:23-25
- Christ takes time to meet this one man – 3:1
- Christ knew this man was seeking the truth.

### **The Interview**

- Nicodemus comes to see what Christ is about – vs. 2
- Jesus gives it straight – the need of Salvation – vs. 3
- Nicodemus does not understand it – vs.4
- Jesus explains that the new birth is a Spiritual one – vs. 5-7
- Jesus explains that the new birth is not related to the Physical – vs. 8
- Jesus rebukes him for not knowing or understanding this – vs. 9
- Jesus and His disciples understood this – vs. 10-11
- Jesus came to bear witness of the Gospel and to purchase Salvation – vs. 12-15
- The Gospel in a nutshell – vs. 16
- The negative side of John 3:16 – vs.17
- The great divide – what will you do with Christ? – vs.18
- The division of Light and Darkness – vs. 19
- Sinners choose their sin over the light of the Gospel – vs.20
- Saints choose the light – vs. 21

### **Summary of Christ's Message – the Gospel.**

- All men need help if they should see Heaven.
- Christ came to purchase our salvation.

- We choose to accept or reject Christ.

## **The Results of the Conversation**

- No direct record is given of the effects of the conversation
- We do hear from Nicodemus two more times:
  - Standing up to growing opposition to Christ – John 7:50
  - Helping to bury the body of Christ – John 19:39