

BIBLE STUDY: LESSON 6

Scripture of Lesson: John 3: 1~21

1. Being born again

- a. What was Nicodemus' motive for coming to Jesus at night?
 - i. A scholar, Pharisee and member of Sanhedrin: His fear of being known to other Jews—why?
 - ii. He felt a deep spiritual need in himself and of Israel; saw and recognized the power in Jesus; and came with an honest heart. "Rabbi, you are a teacher come from God." [v. 2]
 - iii. Are we honest before God as Nicodemus was? Let us come to Jesus in spite of what we are, how we are, bringing our fears and needs.
- b. Jesus' rebuke to Nicodemus: We are blessed when we are corrected by Christ.
 - i. Accept His rebukes; learn from Him in quiet submission
- c. Being reborn [regeneration: v.3] = Being born of water and of the Spirit [v. 5]
 - i. Regeneration and sanctification from our sinful state to children of God
 - ii. Transformation of heart and life through faith in Jesus Christ
 - iii. We do our part, believe in Christ; then God does His part, to transform us into His children through His supernatural regenerative work of salvation [Eph 2:1-10; 1 Pet 1:2]

2. Holy Spirit

- a. Spirit [Hebrew, *ruah*; Greek, *pneuma*]*—*meaning *wind, breath; spirit* by extension; unseen part of human that responds to God; Spirit of God = Spirit of Christ = Holy Spirit
- b. Spirit of God emanating from God [John 15:26]; the third person of the Triune Godhead; *Comforter, Counselor*
- c. God's spiritual representation on earth, who works among people and in this world to achieve/fulfill God's will
- d. Likened to wind [Ezek 37:9] *—*apparent in effects but not having visible substance [v. 8]. Was visible in the form of a dove [Luke 3:22]. Came onto believers like *cloven tongues of fire, sat on each of them* [Acts 2:1-3]

3. Son of God and salvation

- a. Deadly consequence of sin—death and expulsion from God's presence [Gen 3: 19, 24]
- b. Christ brings healing to humanity [v. 14] like Moses' brass serpent in Num 21: 6~9. Let us look up to Christ for salvation. [Isiah 11:10]
- c. "Whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." [v.15] *—* unconditional salvation extended to humanity; saved persons enjoy eternal life
- d. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." [v. 16] *—*essence of the gospel message; Jesus Christ is the essence of salvation; salvation from God's wrath, guilt and apostate hopelessness
- e. God's grace is being extended yet to the world: "God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved." [v. 17] True hope for humanity!

4. Seeking light vs darkness

- a. Christ = light of God; love of light vs. love of darkness [v. 19-21]
- b. Love God's truth [Ps. 33-1~5, 12] "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."
- c. Let us examine our heart—do we seek light or darkness? Are we honest before God about our sins, beliefs and faith, or are we trying to deny and hide the dark elements of our life, faith and beliefs?