

**John 3:1-21****FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE**

- 1) Are you going to believe what God says about you, or what man says about you?
- 2) *3:2* Jesus did not take Nicodemus' statement at face value. Instead of affirming the statement, He pointed him toward a better understanding.
- 3) *3:3* Jesus told Nicodemus that everything on which he had built his world (law/rituals/ability) amounted to nothing but worthless ashes in God's refining fire.
- 4) *3:4* "How can I start all over? How can I go back to the beginning?"
- 5) *3:5* Jesus was not talking about Baptism. Water baptism is obedience to Christ, but not a requirement of salvation.
- 6) *3:8* The wind is a mystery. It is not controlled; its effects are merely observed. The same is true of the Holy Spirit. Regeneration is a mystery; its effects are seen in transformed lives.
- 7) *3:9* Nicodemus was hanging on to preconceived ideas of "religion." He did not grasp the concept of salvation by grace.
- 8) *3:10* Nicodemus' knowledge of the Old Testament should have given him the light he needed (2 Timothy 3:14).
- 9) *3:11* Nicodemus' real problem was not a lack of revelation. In that brief dialogue with Jesus, he obtained more knowledge than any of the Old Testament Prophets ever had.
- 10) *3:12* Refusing to believe results in an inability to fathom the Truth.
- 11) *3:16* God's love extends to the world. God purposes to save Jews and Gentiles.
- 12) *3:17* The judgment of the world was not the mission of Christ's first coming. God will judge, but that is reserved for another time.

God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ~Romans 5:8

- How I view God determines how I pray.
- How I view God determines how I respond to opportunities.
- How I view God determines how I view myself and what I believe He says about me.

**GREEK WORDS**

Palingenesia—(palin) and (genesis); (spiritual) rebirth - (figurative) spiritual renovation

Dei—[die] necessary (binding) :- behooved, need (-ful)

Anekdiegētos - unspeakable

Prayer—Seek His will.

Priority—Put God first in every decision.

Purpose—Seize opportunities God brings our way.