

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

- 1.) How I “view” God determines what I will **DO NEXT**. Therefore, it is crucial we have a proper (Biblical) understanding of God.
- 2.) In vs 1 (and 10) we learn this man who came to Jesus at night time was very **PROMINENT**. He was not only a Pharisee, but also a ruler and a respected teacher (vs 10).
- 3.) vs 3 We see Jesus doesn’t take the “*statement of belief*” at face value because it’s **SOLELY BASED** on signs/miracles.
- 4.) vs 3 In the Bible, the repeated statement- “*Truly, truly*” means there is **AUTHENTICITY** and great significance with what is to follow.
- 5.) Vs 3 No matter how “religious” a person is, no one enters the KINGDOM of God without experiencing personal regeneration. Ultimately, Jesus is saying to all of us **HUMAN EFFORT** is powerless to save.
- 6.) vs 4 The reply is in context, Nicodemus is asking how he could possibly start all over and go back to the beginning?
- 7.) The “new birth” Jesus speaks of is not the old **NATURE ALTERED**, but rather a totally new birth from above.
- 8.) We know Jesus is not talking about Baptism in vs 5 because water baptism is part of our **OBEDIENCE** to Christ and our witness, but it’s not a component of **SALVATION**; otherwise, none of the OT saints was ever saved, nor was the thief on the cross.
- 9.) vs 7 What Jesus tells Nicodemus is **CONTRARY** to everything he’d known his entire life. He had always believed salvation came through his good works and that he could **ACHIEVE** the Kingdom of God through his status.
- 10.) We can see in vs 10 that Jesus expected him to understand these things through his **KNOWLEDGE** of the O.T. It appears Jesus believed the OT was sufficient enough information to put the pieces together.

11.) At this point, Nicodemus’ real problem is not a lack of revelation or information. In his brief dialogue he **OBTAINED** more knowledge than any of the OT Prophets ever had. His real struggle is letting go of his prior way of thinking about God.

12.) Clearly, Nicodemus is responsible to do something with this **KNOWLEDGE** he has received. According to Romans 1:18–21, even those who’ve never heard are still responsible.

GREEK WORDS USED TODAY

Gennao, ghen-nah'-o; to procreate - figurative to regenerate:- be born, bring forth, be delivered of, spring

Anothen, an'-o-then; from the first; by implication anew:- from above, again, from the beginning (very first)

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

Thaumazo thou-mad'-zo to wonder; marvel

Dei [die] it is (was) necessary (binding) :- behooved, need (-ful),

FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

IMPLICATION – One of the implications of today’s passage is that a refusal to believe results in an inability to fathom the truth of the new birth. Therefore, we should not be surprised when our un-believing friends and family struggle with the things you believe; they’re like Nicodemus.

QUESTION – Can you do enough “good” things to overcome the sin of your life in order to qualify you to stand before a Holy and Just God?

How does the reality of the Truths you’ve heard today change or help your perspective of God? Have you gained further insight into the image or “portrait” of God? _____

How can you apply the principles of these truths this week? _____
