

## John 3:9-15 – Jesus, Elevated and Lifted

**Main Idea: The crucifixion of Jesus Christ is the foundation for Spiritual New Birth. Jesus became a curse on the tree in order to remove Sin and the wrath of God, from sinners. The condition for salvation is belief in Jesus Christ.**

### **The Blind Do Not Understand Spiritual Truth (vv 9-13)**

1. Verses 1-8 – Jesus teaches the need for one to be born again in order to see and enter into eternal life
  - a. The Holy Spirit causes new birth, free as the wind to go where He pleases
2. Nicodemus is mystified by this teaching on the Holy Spirit
  - a. There is a separation between Nicodemus' understanding of biblical truth and his leadership status
  - b. Jesus calls him THE teacher, yet does not understand – How can these things be? How can YOU be?
  - c. Jesus exposes a blind spot in his comprehension
  - d. Teaching about God/His Word = High Sacred Calling; Many should not be teachers (**James 3:1**)
3. Jesus knows Nicodemus did not understand (**John 2:24-25**)
  - a. You cannot fool the Lord
4. Nicodemus does not know the Word of God
  - a. *Earthly things:* The New Birth = you are able to see the effects of New Birth in the here and now (like the wind)
    - i. Entrance into the Kingdom of God is noticeable, manifesting itself here
    - ii. The Old Testament speaks to New Birth on earth (**Isaiah 44:2-3, Joel 2:28-29, Psalm 51:10-11**)
  - b. *Heavenly things:* The Trinity, the Cross, the Resurrection
  - c. We need to know our Bibles: Biblical illiteracy is at an all time high – We are people of the Book!
5. Nicodemus listens to the wrong persons
  - a. The world has many voices vying for your attention and your allegiance
  - b. Jesus tells Nicodemus – My voice is the one to listen to for spiritual truth
6. Jesus knows heavenly realities because He descended to earth from Heaven = His words are eternal life

### **The Foundation of New Birth (v 14)**

1. Nicodemus is ignorant of earthly and heavenly realities, He needs to be born again to understand
2. The Foundations for New Birth
  - a. Barriers to New Birth need to be removed: Wrath of God and Sin of Man (**See John 3:36**)
  - b. The Sinner's Biggest Problem: The Wrath of God - God is just and therefore punishes Law breakers
  - c. Iniquity and Transgression makes us all guilty
    - i. We are at enmity with God from birth
    - ii. We cannot obey God's Law and are rebels by nature
  - d. Jesus came to remove God's wrath and sin
    - i. Jesus appeals to Numbers 21:
      1. The people sinned against God, murmuring over His provision of food
      2. God judged the people sending poisonous snakes
      3. The poison from the snakes caused death
      4. The Lord uses an image of His curse to remove His wrath – the Judge is also the Redeemer
      5. The way of salvation is to look by faith on the brazen snake on the pole by Moses
    - ii. The Spiritual Reality
      1. We are all bitten by the snake of Sin
      2. The poison of Sin causes death – the wages of sin...
      3. Death is the wrathful spiritual judgment on sinners
      4. Jesus came to be lifted up – He came in the image of man, the likeness of man who is cursed
      5. Jesus became human to bear the curse of sin on a tree (**Deut 21:22-23a, Gal 3:13, 2 Cor 5:21**)

### **The Condition for Salvation (v 15)**

1. Jesus tells Nicodemus – I am the bronze serpent that will be lifted up on a pole (tree) so that all who look upon me with the eyes of faith will be saved
2. The condition for eternal life is belief in Jesus Christ
  - a. God's remedy and cure for His own wrath and our sin is His Son on the Cross being accursed, smitten, and shamed
3. Do you see Jesus on the Cross? Do you see His blood shed for you? Do you see Him paying for your Sin in His atoning death?
4. By faith, do you see Jesus as your Lord and your Savior? If you can say yes, you have been born again and you are saved
5. *Illustration:* Reverend William Haslam
6. Look to Jesus and Live! Where are you looking?