

NIGHT TIME VISIT ~ JOHN 3:1-21

→Scripture reading John 1:14, Eph. 2:8-9, 1 Tim. 2:3-6, 2 Pet. 3:9

NICODEMUS QUESTIONS JESUS ~ John 3:1-8

[1] Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. [2] He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." [3] In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." [4] "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" [5] Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. [6] Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. [7] You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' [8] The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus was...

- **Pharisee** - strictest group of religious leaders
- **Ruling Council** - Sanhedrin responsible for religious rule in the Nation
- **Teacher** - known and respected

THE SON OF MAN WILL BE LIFTED UP ~ John 3:9-15

[9] "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. [10] "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? [11] I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. [12] I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? [13] No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven--the Son of Man. [14] Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, [15] that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

APPLICATION

Eternal Life Does NOT Come by....

- Legalism
- Being a Good Person
- National Cultural Heritage
- Inheritance

Eternal Life Comes by...

- The Death Jesus
- Grace
- Faith

***Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- [9] not by works, so that no one can boast.*

GOD LOVES THE WORLD ~ John 3:16-21

[16] "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. [17] For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. [18] Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

➔ **The whole world is under Condemnation...**
...Jesus came to offer Salvation

➔ **Jesus Christ did not come to earth to change God's mind...**
...Jesus came to earth to Express God's mind. ~Burge

1 Timothy 2:3-4 (NIV) This is good, and pleases God our Savior, [4] who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV) The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

God's Love is...

- **UNIVERSAL** - offered freely to everyone
- **COSTLY** - sacrificed His Son
- **ETERNAL in Purpose** - to remove the curse & have a Relationship with us

[19] This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. [20] Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. [21] But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

SO WHAT ??

SALVATION is NOT

- a matter of personal knowledge
- changed behavior
- faithfulness to religious traditions
- discovering something within and drawing it out
- a matter of a Relationship between Equals

SALVATION is to...

- Recognize you are in Darkness
- Recognize Jesus is the Only Light
- Come out of Darkness to the Light
- Accept by Faith God's Gift of Salvation