

An Instrument & Advocate of Praise

“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.”

John 3:16 (NIV)

A. The Setting

John 3

3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council.

2 He came to Jesus at night...

1. It was dark.
2. Nicodemus

- a. Pharisee (roughly 6-7,000)
- b. Sanhedrin Member (1 of 71)
- c. Wealthy (75 lbs. of myrrh & aloes)

3. Jesus will meet you where you are.
4. Jesus has time for you. You can come to Jesus at any time--with any question. *God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble (Pr. 3:34)*

B. The Conversation

...and said, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs You are doing if God were not with Him.”

1. Physical/Temporal Sight

³ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.^[a]”

2. Eternal Sight

⁴ “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit^[b] gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at My saying, “You^[a] 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.”^[d]

3. Spiritual birth

We are not improved caterpillars but by faith have become spiritual butterflies.¹

⁹ “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, 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.^[e] ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the

Son of Man must be lifted up,^[f] ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in Him.”^[g]

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 they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.

4. You can have sin or salvation, but you can’t have both.

C. The Conclusion

¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people 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 their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

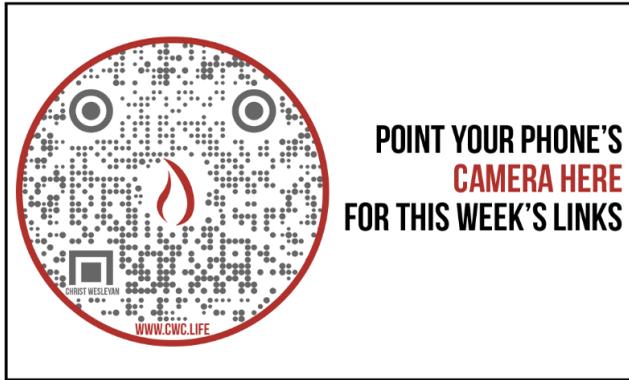
1. Choice or Force
2. Darkness or Light
3. Dead to sin or dead in sin

D. What will you do?

1. Meet with Him right where you are?
2. Speak with Him authentically?
3. Follow Him wholeheartedly?

**To begin a relationship with Jesus...
Text: IChooseJesus to 570-273-0088**

¹ Kenneth O. Gangel, [John](#), vol. 4, Holman New Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000), 51.



CWC Weekly Update

Giving last Sunday: 81%

Giving year to date: 89.1%

Last Sunday's attendance: 2,023

Salvations to date: 193 | Baptisms to date: 35