

# John 3-4

## May 20, 2012

Today's lesson is on **chapters 3 and 4** of the Gospel of John.

### **3:1-15** What do we learn about becoming a Christian in **John 3:1-15**?

- It is not enough to be morally outstanding {Pharisee}. **Romans 3:23** tells us that *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*. Being better than others does not cause us to gain a holy God's approval. We need a Savior.
- It is not enough to just believe that Jesus came from God (**3:2**).
- You have to be a Christ follower to understand spiritual things (*see the Kingdom of God – 3:3*). **See 1 Corinthians 2:14**. A person must be born again (start a spiritual life). **See 2 Corinthians 5:17**.
- People are saved by their faith in Jesus (**3:14**). **See Numbers 21:4-9**. The people were healed and saved by putting all of their trust in the bronze serpent.

### **3:5** What does it mean to be *born of water and the Spirit* in **verse 5**?

- *Water* refers to physical birth and *Spirit* to spiritual birth. This is made clear by **verse 6**. **Ephesians 2:1** tells us that we are *dead in trespasses and sins* before we come to Christ. If we are born once (physical birth), then we will die twice (physically and eternally/spiritually). If we are born twice (physically and spiritually), then we will only die once (physically).

### **John 3:16** is likely the most famous verse in the Bible. What does it mean? And what does it not mean?

- Those who put their faith in what Jesus did for them find forgiveness, new life, and a relationship with God (**John 17:3**). Mental acknowledgement of the facts is not true believing (**James 2:18-20**). You *behave* everything you believe; the rest is just religious talk. **See John 3:36 in the NASV**. The Greek says in the second part of that verse that the person who does not **obey** will not see life. (The King James Version translates two different Greek words *believe* in that verse.) Obeying is the other side of the believing "coin". If a person genuinely believes that Jesus is who He said He was, then that changes everything.

### **John 3:17** says that Jesus came to save and not to judge. Does this mean that what we do doesn't matter to Him? Will Jesus ever judge people?

- **Verse 18** tells us that lost people already stand judged and condemned before God. Jesus did not have to condemn anyone, because we were all already condemned by our sin. Jesus was the answer for our salvation. God wants us to live holy/WOW lives (**1 Peter 1:15-16**). Jesus *will* judge the world (**Acts 17:31**); He will also judge believers (**2 Corinthians 5:10**).

### How many of you have heard about the "age of accountability"? Can someone explain it?

- This means that a child who dies before a certain maturity level is not yet accountable for his sin and will go to heaven. The child has not "rejected" God; he has just not matured enough to understand sin and the Gospel.

### What is the Biblical basis for the "age of accountability"?

- God's character, He is just and fair. **See 2 Samuel 12:21-23**. The baby could not return to earth to David, but David could go to heaven where the child now lived.

**Would this also apply to those who are mentally handicapped. Why would we think that the Bible teaches this?**

- **1 John 2:2** tells us that Jesus died for the sins *of the whole world*. **1 John 4:14** tells us that *the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world*. Once a person is saved, He can never be unsaved (**John 10:28 & 1 Peter 1:5**). Names get *blotted out/erased* from the Lamb's Book of Life (**Revelation 3:5 & Psalm 69:28**). In order to be saved, your name must be in the Lamb's Book of Life in the end (**Revelation 20:15 & 21:27**). We, therefore, conclude that every person's name is in the Book of Life in the beginning. If we are capable of accountability and do not repent, then our names get removed and we miss heaven.

**3:19-21 What do we learn in verses 19 to 21?**

- Darkness/evil hates light/righteousness, so the world hated Jesus. When we know we are doing something wrong, we hope that no one sees; we hide in darkness. When we do the right thing we don't care if anyone sees (we walk in the light) and we may even hope that others are watching.

**How does this principle apply to our lives today?**

- If we live righteous lives, it will be bothersome for those who don't. We are likely to be avoided and left out of gatherings because our lives "convict" the lives of unrighteous people. See **2 Timothy 3:12**. [12 A deacon must be faithful to his wife, and he must manage his children and household well.] **NLT**

**3:23 Notice in verse 23 that John baptized where there was plenty of water to immerse. [23 At this time John the Baptist was baptizing at Aenon, near Salim, because there was plenty of water there; and people kept coming to him for baptism.] NLT**

**What does John 3:29 teach us about envy?**

- We cannot have another's joy, but we can lose ours if we envy their joy and blessing. John had the joy of being the forerunner; He could not have the Messiah's joy.

**How does this apply to our lives?**

- We can lose the joy that could be ours wishing that we had someone else's life.

**What does it mean in John 3:34 that Jesus gives the Spirit without measure?**

- No believer has "more" of the Holy Spirit than another. God doesn't "dose" out His Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a person; you have Him or you don't. The Spirit does, though, often have more of one person than another.

**In John 4:1-42 Jesus crosses racial barriers. Samaritans were half Jew and half Gentile...hated by both. Jews would go miles out of their way to avoid contact with Samaritans. Jesus also crossed gender barriers. A Jewish man would not talk to a woman in public as He did (4:27). The Greek word translated had in verse 4 means that Jesus was "morally compelled" to go through Samaria.**

**What do we learn in this story of the woman at the well?**

- That God is not biased toward any race or sex. See **Galatians 3:28**. [28 There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.] **NLT**

**4:10,14 What is the living water that Jesus refers to in verses 10 and 14?**

- The *living water* is the **Holy Spirit**. He would live inside of us. He would be a never-ending resource that would always be available to us.

**4:16-18 What do we learn from verses 16 to 18.**

- God knows all that we have ever done and will ever do (Proverbs 15:3; Psalm 139:1-4).

**4:23-24. What does it mean in verses 23 to 24 to worship *in spirit and in truth*?**

- To worship in *spirit* means that it is deeper than our souls (mind and emotions). It is more than liking the music. It's more than an emotional experience. It is more than having lofty thoughts about God. "Truth" means that our worship is based upon who God has revealed Himself to be in His Word.

**4:34 What do you think that Jesus meant by what He said in verse 34?**

Jesus lived to do God's will. Doing His Father's will meant more than anything to Him.

**4:42 How does verse 42 apply to those near to us coming to Christ?**

- They must come to believe and follow Christ for themselves. They cannot live off of our faith.

**4:44 What does verse 44 mean to us today?**

- It is most difficult to witness to those closest to us (especially family). We can have a great influence on them, but it will be easier for someone else to bring them across the line of faith. Its broader meaning is that we tend to appreciate less those we know best.