

III. Jesus Discourse (John 3:11-21) Salvation: BELIEVE!

Key word “Believe” (7X) New Birth must be appropriated by Belief!

A. Nicodemus’ (Man’s) UNBELIEF (11-12)

Heavenly things.
His Person,
His Identity
His Work of Redemption

1. **(v.11)** Third set of Verily, Verily (Truly, Truly) – THUS SAITH THE LORD!
2. “We” in response to “N’s” we (v.2). Jesus as a Person in the Trinity,
3. You RECEIVE not (11), because you BELIEVE not (12). Responsibility lies fully upon man! Unbelief is the ROOT CAUSE of ignorance.
4. **(v.12) Earthly things:** Entry by a spiritual birth into an earthly Kingdom. The New Birth happens on EARTH.
5. **(v.12) Heavenly things :** “It involves the revelation of ‘the Son of man,’ and the redemption by the cross, and the ascension of the Son of man into heaven, and the love of God to the world, and the gift of eternal life to faith.” (Pulpit Comm.)

B. The Works of the Son (13-15)

Crucifixion
Resurrection
Ascension
Exaltation

1. **(v.13a) The Deity of Christ!** No human went to heaven to bring salvation. ONLY JESUS! The LOGOS, who came down is qualified to speak of heavenly things, the plan of redemption, the imputation to declare sinners “R,” while keeping God’s “R” unblemished. (Romans 3:26)
2. **(v.13b)** “...even the Son of Man which is in heaven.” The OMNIPRESENCE of the DIVINE Nature of Christ.
3. **(v.14) His crucifixion.** The Atoning Sacrifice. “Lifted up” is a euphemism for hanging on the cross. The essence of Redemption is **Christ’s death**. This is a veiled prediction about Jesus death on the cross. (John 8:28; 12:32, 34; 18:31-32)
 - a. Numbers 21:5-9; Moses lifted up a snake on a pole so that all who “looked”(believed GOD) upon the serpent on the pole would be healed. The healing was NOT in the snake.
 - b. The snake on the pole was “dead” did not move, did not impart its venom anymore, was without power, defeated. Victory had been accomplished! It was hoisted on a pole, a sign of its conquest.
 - c. Similarly, Christ died for our sin, bore the penalty, and was victorious! (Is 45:22)

When "N"
Saw Jesus on
the cross, he
understood.
He "looked"
and lived.
John 19:39
Luke 23:44

4. **(v.15)** "...that whosoever **believeth in him** should not perish,..." Total belief, unconditional, Jesus is Savior & Lord, no reservation, no hesitation. Not like the ones in John 2:23-25.
- "whosoever"** : open to all who will believe! Re 22:17 "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."
 - Perish** – Revelation 20:15 Lake of Fire. It is real, forever, hot, painful. II Thess. 1:8-9; Matthew 25:41
 - Eternal Life** – In the presence of our Savior & Lord, peace, bliss, forever. Not only **Eternal Quantity** but also **Eternal Quality** of life!
 - Eventually, Nicodemus looked and lived (John 7:50-52; **19:39**)

C. The Works of the Father. (v.16-17)

Sober, Practical.

Believe
Who he is, what
he did.
Christ simply laid
out the facts of
God's LOVE and
ACTION. No
emotional
manipulation.

- (v.16) God So loved.** Reflects the intensity of God's *ἀγαπάω*. Love.
 - Divine Love & Divine Judgment in perfect harmony.
 - The Divine love to the **whole of humanity** (Adamic Race, **including Gentiles**). Man is serpent-bitten and needs **deliverance**. It is for the "**whole world**" of which John speaks in 1 John 2:2. "God will have all men to be saved" (1 Tim 2:4; Hebrews 2:9; II Cor. 5:15).
 - Perishing**, the result of SIN. "Missing the MARK."
 - We must meditate on "GOD gave," "AGAPE Love," "only begotten Son," "believeth," "life," "perishing," "the world," to fully understand the depth and richness of meaning. Not just to the JEWS but Gentiles also (Ro.3:29).
- (v.17)** Distinction of first and Second Mission of the SON.
 - God SENT the "LAMB" at the first Coming. (Is 53:7; I John 4:14)
 - Second Coming, He will judge. (Matthew 25:31-46, John 5:22, Acts 17:31)

D. The Role of Faith (v.18)

- A believer is "IN CHRIST," and is a such released from condemnation** (Ro. 8:1).
- Unbelief guarantees condemnation.** GUILTY (Romans 3:19) The steady state of the Adamic Race. GWT (Rev. 20:11).