“You Must Be Born Again” – John 1:3-15 (Part 2)

1. *The Lost Condition of Nicodemus (vv.1-2)*
	1. *Religion is insufficient (v.1)*
	2. *Affirmation* *of the supernatural in Jesus is inadequate (v.2)*
	3. *Spiritual darkness is the main problem (v.2 – “by night”; cf. 3:19-20)*
2. *New Life in Jesus by the Spirit is Mankind’s Greatest Need (vv.3-8)*
	1. *Jesus declares the* *impossibility of experiencing the Kingdom apart from a new birth (v.3)*
	2. *Nicodemus* *exposes his spiritual blindness by his misunderstanding (v.4; cf. 1 Cor. 2:14)*
	3. *Jesus declares the impossibility of entering the Kingdom apart from a total spiritual transformation of an individual (vv.5-6)*

* 1. The new birth is the result of the Spirit’s life-giving work (vv.7-8; cf. Ezk. 37:1-11; Gen. 2:7)
		1. It is a universal necessity (v.7)
		2. It is the creation of spiritual life by the Spirit (v.8)
			1. The new birth the result of the Spirit’s working of His own free-will (cf. 5:21; 6:63)
			2. The new birth is experienced but cannot be controlled or predicted by individuals

*“We can neither control him (the Spirit) nor understand him. But that does not mean we cannot witness his effects. Where the Spirit works, the effects are undeniable and unmistakable.” (Carson)*

*“Despite its inscrutability, spiritual birth is real, as real as the mysterious movements of the wind. Moreover, just as the wind blows “where it pleases,” so the Spirit’s operation is not subject to human control, eluding all efforts at manipulation” (Kostenberger)*

1. Jesus is the Ultimate Source of Revelation and Eternal Life (vv.9-15)
	1. Nicodemus’ failure to heed prior revelation (v.9-10; cf. 3:5,8 w/ Ezk. 36-37)
	2. Nicodemus’ failure to receive Jesus’ reliable witness (vv.11-13)
		1. His words are in concert with the Trinity (v.11; cf. 3:34-36)
		2. His words about the new birth must be believed as a prerequisite to receiving greater spiritual truths (v.12)
		3. His words are authoritative about heavenly and earthly matters because He is the Son of Man (v.13; cf. Prov. 30:4-6)