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

1. *The Lost Condition of Nicodemus (vv.1-2)*
2. *New Life in Jesus by the Spirit is Mankind’s Greatest Need (vv.3-8)*
3. *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)*
   3. Nicodemus’ (and everyone’s) need to look to Jesus as the source of Eternal Life.
      1. The up-lifted Son of Man implies Jesus’ cross and exaltation (cf. 8:28; 12:23-34; Isa. 52:13)
      2. The up-lifted Son of Man is God’s appointed means of salvation (cf. Num. 21:4-9)
      3. The up-lifted Son of Man is the object of saving faith (compare Num. 21:8 with Jn. 3:15)
         1. The open invitation (“Everyone who is bitten;” “Whoever”) (cf. Rom. 5:6; 1 Tim. 1:15)
         2. The simple means (“When he sees it;” “Believes in Him”)
         3. The certain promise (“Shall live;” “Will have eternal life”)

Implications

1. Look not to your faith, but the Christ the object of your faith. Rest in His promise, not your worthiness, ability, or even the strength of your faith!
2. The Spirit loves to glorify Christ (Jn. 16:14). We cannot cause any to be born again. But the Spirit loves to open eyes when Jesus is lifted up in His glory through the Gospel.
3. Live out the realities of the new birth every day. Continue every day looking to Jesus, for washing and power, for forgiveness and the Spirit. Abide in Jesus by abiding in His love, and in so doing you will bear much fruit!
4. Work this out experientially by confession and Gospel faith (1 Jn. 1:9; 2:1-2!). And work this out experientially by not practicing sin (1 Jn. 3).