“Even So Must the Son of Man Be Lifted Up”

Intro: Having introduced us to Jesus in chapters 1 & 2, we need to understand that He is in fact the Christ, John the Beloved is now teaching what relevance has to salvation and how it is only through in Him and His work that one is saved.

A. As we said three weeks ago, “Here is the difference between being eternally and eternally! Is Jesus merely a teacher come from God? Or, is He the Christ, the of God?”

1. Jesus told Nicodemus that if one wanted to enter the kingdom of God, that they .

2. Jesus told Nicodemus one is born again: the work of .

John 3:11-15

I. Jesus Nicodemus’s .

A. Though Nicodemus did not believe what Jesus said about the necessity of being born again by the work of God, that He and His disciples spoke the for they knew what they were talking about and bore witness of that which they had seen! Therefore, Nicodemus was for not believing their testimony.

B. That Nicodemus might see just how desperately he needed to be born again, with him saying that if he could not understand elementary truths about salvation, how then would he understand if Jesus tried to teach him greater more advanced truths of the kingdom - truths that depend upon a right understanding of how one is saved?

1. outflanked Nicodemus’s rebuttal to His ability to teach about heavenly things by agreeing that while it was true that no one had ascended into heaven so that they could come back and tell of heavenly things (cf. Prov. 30:4), there was one who had indeed from heaven and was well to tell of heavenly things, and He is the Son of Man!

   a. Our Lord referred to Himself as “the .” This is a beautiful title of for Jesus could have rightly said, “I am the Son of God!” But as Philippians 2:6-7 says, “… although He existed in the form of God, (He) did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond- , and being made in the likeness of men.”

II. In ministering the truth of Nicodemus’s great need to be born again, our loving Lord continued from the Old Testament to illustrate the truth of - that it comes not by works which Nicodemus’s dead religion believed, but .
A. Jesus reminded Nicodemus of the story of the Israelites, when they were dying as they were plagued by fiery serpents; and Moses ___________ for them lifting up the bronze serpent. All who looked upon the serpent lived. In this story we see that the people were ___________ due to their sin, and needed someone to intercede for them so they could ________.

B. “... even so must the Son of Man be lifted up ...” Just as Moses interceded for the people, here ___________ foretells of His death on the cross as the means of His ___________ for the sins of mankind.

1. As Jesus spoke He said, “even so ________ the Son of Man be lifted up.” This is the sovereign plan of the sovereign God, and it will take place for it must take place for God has decreed it. There is no other way by which men can be saved - they must be born again through ___________ ______ the redemptive work of Jesus ________!

C. As a result of Christ interceding for us by dying on the cross, it can now be said, “whoever ___________ may in Him have eternal ________.”

1. As one commentator put it, “The stricken Israelites were cured by obediently looking ... at the elevated bronze serpent ... apart from any works or righteousness of their own in hope and dependence on God’s word. In the same way whoever looks in ________ ________ to the crucified Christ will be cured from sin’s deadly bite and will ____ ________ have eternal life.”

III. This, is how one gains entrance into the kingdom of God where there is life everlasting! “______ by your ________, nor by your might and effort, but ____ My ________!,” says the Lord of Hosts. It is by a laying down your trust in your own efforts, and by fully in the Son of God that one is saved. So. marvel not that I say, “You must be ________!”

Closing: What was more easy for a poor, wounded, dying Israelite, bitten by a poisonous snake, then to confess their sin, depend upon an intercessor, and look up to a bronze serpent, and have ________ ________ by the sovereign grace of God? So with the poor, lost, dying sinner. ________ in Jesus who descended from heaven, and was lifted up on the cross, interceding for us by paying in full the penalty due us for our sin, is the way to eternal life.

And, what foolishness it would be for a dying snake bitten individual to refuse to believe and receive such a free remedy as was offered the people? Yet, there is nothing more foolish than for one who is a hopelessly lost and dying sinner to refuse to look upon Jesus with__________, __________ Him to be the Christ, the only begotten Son of God, and to trust Him through His work on the cross for everlasting life. Let us lay down our works and trust in God to act on our behalf, for we must be born again by the work of ________ who has ________________ to wash us clean and put His Spirit in us. Amen!

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