

John #15

3:11-15

03.18.07

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

Intro: Having introduced us to Jesus in chapters 1 & 2, _____ 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 _____.

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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 a 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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