

# ***“The Christ Who Addresses My Deepest Need”***

**John 3:1-15**

*Jesus Christ faithfully speaks to man’s deepest need.*

## **1. A Man in Need of the New Birth**

**vv. 1-8**

### **(1) The Man Nicodemus (1-2)**

*“There was a man of the Pharisees  
named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.”*

#### **-1- His Bio**

- Very serious about spiritual things – the pursuit of righteousness
- Very well-versed in the Scriptures
- Very gifted

#### **-2- His Present Interest**

*“This man came to Jesus by night...”*

- His earnestness – seeking a private interview with Christ
- His apparent fear of man
- His conviction concerning Christ *“we know that you are a teacher come from God;  
for no one can do these signs that you do  
unless God is with him.”*

Entirely deficient as pertains to salvation!

### **(2) Jesus Confronts Nicodemus concerning His True Need (3-8)**

#### **-1- The Absolute Necessity of the New Birth**

*“Most assuredly, I say to you,  
unless one is born again,  
he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

- The starting point of true spiritual life
- Man can see nothing of the things of God without it!
- Man cannot enter the kingdom of God without it!

#### **-2- The Nature of the New Birth**

- A radical change! cf. *“How can a man be born when he is old?”*
- An operation of the Spirit! *“unless one is born of water and the Spirit”*
- An inward, radical cleansing cf. Ezek. 36
- Man entirely helpless, powerless, unable to bring it about

## **2. A Man in Need of Simple Faith in Christ**

**vv. 9-15**

### **(1) Nicodemus Confesses His Ignorance (9)**

*“How can these things be?”*

### **(2) Jesus Speaks to the Necessity of Simple Faith in These Truths (10-15)**

#### **-1- Understanding these things essential to one who would shepherd God’s people! 10**

*“Are you the teacher in Israel,  
and do not know these things?”*

#### **-2- They are “as clear as the sun” to all true shepherds! 11** *“we speak what we know and testify what we have seen”*

(Also as clear as the sun to every true Christian!)

- Unequivocally believed
- Unashamedly proclaimed

#### **-3- They are among the most basic of spiritual truths and can only be received by faith! 12**

*“If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe,  
how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?”*

#### **-4- They center entirely in Jesus Himself; Christ is the object of this true faith 13-15**

- A perfect righteousness achieved by and found in Him alone 13
- A perfect atonement for sin achieved by His death alone 14-15

### **Further Application:**