

Harmony of the Gospels
Part 14
“I Will Make You Brand New”

There was a wealthy businessman who wanted to buy an old warehouse and property in a section of a large city.

The building had been abandoned and was in great need of repairs.

Vandals had kicked down the doors, broken the windows and thrown trash all over the place.

As the owner of the building began to show the warehouse to the prospective buyer, he began to describe all of the repairs that he was going to make on the building to make it more appealing.

The buyer told him: “You don’t need to make any repairs to this broken down old building, I don’t care anything about it, what I want is the site the building is located on, I am going to build something brand new here...”

When Jesus Christ makes Himself known to a human being, and that person asks Jesus to forgive them for all of their sins and make them a brand new person, Jesus doesn’t try to clean make that person better, He wants to make them Brand New.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new

Your old flesh, your old nature is so far gone as far as the Lord is concerned, that He is not even interested in it at all.

- ☞ **Jesus is not interested** in your old broken down building with the doors kicked in, the windows broken out and garbage strewn all over the place.
- ☞ **What Jesus is interested in is the site**, the place where you Spirit dwells, that is what He wants to make “Brand New”.

All of mans plans and philosophies are directed at trying to make the old man better, to clean you up, take you through a 12 step program, a 6 step program, Psychoanalyze you, put you on a couch and ask you about your childhood, or shock you with electricity into making changes...

- ☞ **At the very best**, all that mans attempts can do for you is make you a little better for a time.

- ⊕ **Man always seeks to change the body or the mind,** but that is not where our problems come from, what needs to be changed and made new is our spirit.’
- ⊕ **Man always ignores the Spirit** as if it doesn’t exist, and all he focuses on is your body and mind.
- ⊕ **Mans problem is Spiritual not physical,** so that is what Jesus directs His changing power at.
- ⊕ **When Jesus Christ** comes into your life and forgives all of your sins, He forgets all of the old you and make you into a Brand New You.

The Lords plan does not involve 12 steps, it involves 1 step. You take one step in Jesus direction and He will change you, from the inside out...

This is what the 3rd chapter of The Book of John is all about, The power that Jesus has to make you and I into “A Brand New Creation”.

John 3:1-21

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

- ⊕ **Pharisees:** the Pharisees were called “**The separated ones**”.
- ⊕ **Originally they were the priests and the scribes** and they determined the development of Israel after the Jews returned to Israel from being in captivity in Babylon.
- ⊕ **When the people first came back into the land of Israel, the scribes and Pharisees were virtually the same in their beliefs.**
- ⊕ **They became more and more separated** until they formed 2 separate groups, **the Pharisees from the scribes** and **the Sadducees from the priests.**
- ⊕ **The Pharisees** believe the soul is eternal, that there is a resurrection from the dead and in the existence of angels.
- ⊕ **The Sadducees** don’t believe in the Resurrection, that is why they are SAD—U—SEE.
- ⊕ **The Sadducees** believe that only the first 5 books of the Bible, called “The Pentateuch”, written by Moses are valid.
- ⊕ **Because Moses,** does not mention the resurrection from the dead, they do not believe in it.

In Mark 12:26-27, Jesus tries to correct the doctrine of the Sadducees by saying:

Mark 12:26-27

26 JESUS SPEAKING: "But **concerning the dead, that they rise,** have you not read in the book of Moses, in the burning bush passage, how God spoke to him, saying, `I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'?

27 "**He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living. You are therefore greatly mistaken.**"

So, Nicodemus is from the sect of the Pharisees.

John 3:1

1 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, 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.

- ⊞ **Nicodemus:** his name means “**Victor over the people**”
- ⊞ **Some of the scholars place Nicodemus** as “**Nicodemus Ben Gorion**”, the brother of the famous Jewish historian “**Josephus**”
- ⊞ **Nicodemus was 1 of the 3 richest men in Jerusalem**, but after this encounter with Jesus, the tradition is that he became very poor as a result of the persecution he endured for his belief in Jesus.

John 3

2 This man came to Jesus **by night** and said to Him, “**Rabbi, 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.”

By night: this was not an accident: Nicodemus came at night so he would not be seen, John mentions this event again in chapter 19:39.

John 19:39

And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds

- ⊞ **The fact that Nicodemus came at all** is amazing considering his place in the Jewish religious leadership.
- ⊞ **Rabbi:** Nicodemus addresses Jesus by the title of “**teacher**”
- ⊞ **He already had some understanding** that Jesus was special.
- ⊞ **Rabbi is not a name you call just anyone**—it was reserved for great teachers—a title of honor and respect.
- ⊞ **Rabbi was the name given to those who were considered experts in the laws of Moses.** Today this would be equal to a doctorate in theology.
- ⊞ **Technically,** Jesus is not an acknowledged rabbi from their schools.
- ⊞ **Jesus had not been schooled** in the formal religious system of the Jews.
- ⊞ **School does not make a man a bible teacher**—the holy spirit does.
- ⊞ **Some of the largest churches in the u.s.a.** Are Calvary chapels, most of us have never been inside a Bible school.
- ⊞ **Nicodemus says: We know: who is the we?**—their must have been others in the Jewish religious leadership who also were seeking Jesus.
- ⊞ **We know in Greek is “eido” (i-do)** it carries the idea of **being convinced, a sure conviction about something.**
- ⊞ **Nicodemus is convinced that Jesus is what?** read the rest of the verse—“**A teacher sent from god**”.
- ⊞ **How does Nicodemus know this?**—how do we know Jesus is the lord?

[John 6:44](#)

44 "**No one** can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

- ⊕ **Amazingly**, it is The Holy Spirit that draws every person to Jesus, the results are up to us, but the Holy Spirit **does** seek to draw every human being who has ever been born to Jesus.
- ⊕ **Look at the last verse in chapter 2**—Jesus knows what is in Nicodemus heart—he knows what is in your heart—but he is still drawing you to himself because he loves you!

[John 2:24-25](#)

24 But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men,
25 and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.

[John 3](#)

2 This man came to Jesus **by night** and said to Him, "**Rabbi, 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."

- ⊕ **Verse 2 "Teacher"**: gr. Nicodemus calls Jesus: "**Didaskalos**"—we have studied this word before—it also can be translated as "**Master**"—Nicodemus does recognize Jesus is very special, he calls him "**Didaskalos**", "The Master."

[John 3](#)

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "**Most assuredly**, I say to you, unless one is born again, **he cannot see the kingdom of God.**"

- ⊕ **Most assuredly or verily, verily**: gr. Amen (**am-ane**)—we pronounce it "**amen**".
- ⊕ **Meaning I agree or "So be it"**, we use **Amen** at the end of a prayer when we agree with what was said.
- ⊕ **Here Jesus uses "Amen" at the beginning of his statement** "*Most Assuredly, Amen, unless you are born again...*"

Amen is the same word in Hebrew, Greek and Latin as well as English and most other languages in the world.

- ⊕ **Amen** is the best known word in human speech, it means the same thing to all people.
- ⊕ **In Hebrew** "*Aman*" is closely tied to "**Believe**" or "**Faithfulness**".
- ⊕ **It has come to be known as absolute trust or confidence in something.**

Here in this context Jesus is saying "*It is absolutely necessary that we are "born again" or we cannot go to heaven.*"

- ⊕ **Born again**: made up of 2 Greek words: **Born**—"Gennao" (**ghen-nah'o**) and "**Again**"—"Anothen" (**an-o-then**).

- ☞ **Ghen-nah'o**: to be born
- ☞ **An-o-then**: from heaven or over again.—
- ☞ **In the Jewish way of thinking**—“**An-o-then**” is to convert you to their way of life.
- ☞ **“an-o-then” can be translated**:
- ☞ *From above.*
- ☞ *From heaven.*
- ☞ *From the first.*
- ☞ *Or over again.*

From Nicodemus response in verse 4 he took what Jesus said as be Born “**Over again**”, a 2nd birth from the womb.

- ☞ **Jesus is talking about being born from heaven, not the earth.**
- ☞ **You talk about reincarnation**, being born over and over as a bug or animal or human. Reincarnation is child’s play compared to what Jesus is talking about.

Jesus is talking about being completely recreated as a “Heavenly creature”, eternal, never dying, a creation that is not limited by time or space.

- ☞ **Notice in verse 3**: Jesus says that “Without this new birth from above, **You cannot see the kingdom of God**”.
- ☞ **See** in verse 3—is that same Greek word “*Eido*” (i-do) the same Greek word used in verse 2 by Nicodemus where he said “**We know**” you are from god.
- ☞ **To See** or “**i-do**” is **to perceive or understand by any of the senses**—to be skilled in knowing or understanding something.

Read—Jesus is saying—“**Nicodemus, you cannot know by any human senses or be skilled in knowing about the kingdom of heaven unless you experience a complete transformation from heaven—by God**”.

Paul explained it to the Corinthian church like this in

1 Corinthians 2:14:

14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The same verse from the living bible:

1 Corinthians 2:14

14 But the man who isn't a Christian can't understand and can't accept these thoughts from God, which the Holy Spirit teaches us. They sound foolish to him because only those who have the Holy Spirit within them can understand what the Holy Spirit means. Others just can't take it in. (TLB)

- ☞ **The Holy Spirit** is the agent that comes inside you to “**Re create**” you as a new creation.
- ☞ **He also is** the one who gives you the ability to:

1. Understand what God is really like.

2. What the Bible means when you study it.
3. How to live to please god.

Without the “**New birth**” through the Holy Spirit you cannot **(read 1-3)**

- **But notice—Nicodemus just doesn’t get it:**

John 3

4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? **Can he** enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of **water** and the **Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

In the story of “Alice in Wonderland”, Alice makes a statement at one point in the movie: *“I could tell you of adventures beginning from this morning, but it is no use going back to yesterday, because I was different person then...”*

Being “**Born Again**” is like leaving everything that has happened to you in the past behind you forever, it is as if those things never existed...Because You literally were a different person then.

Perhaps you have done some terrible thing in your past, or maybe someone has done terrible things to you in your past.

When you open up your heart and invite Jesus to come inside, He totally removes all of those bad things that have happened, and makes it as if they never happened...

- ☞ **Nicodemus** just doesn’t have the ability at this point to understand this.
- ☞ **Notice in verse 4**—Nicodemus say “***How can a man be born when he is old?***”—then he adds “**can he enter a 2nd time...**”
- ☞ **The way that Nicodemus asks Jesus the question indicates that he expected an negative answer**—he expected Jesus to confirm you cannot go into your mother’s womb and be born again physically.

Nicodemus does not understand the difference between a “**Second beginning**” and a “**New beginning**”.

- ☞ **The world is constantly trying** to turn over a new leaf or to get a second beginning—Jesus is offering us “**a new beginning**—through a new life.
- ☞ **Verse 5: Jesus gives us the rules for admittance into heaven:** you must be born by **water and by the spirit**.

Water: 2 possible meanings:

1. **The water** speaks of the physical birth—as the amniotic sack burst in the mothers womb—and physical birth follows shortly.

The 2nd possibility is speaking of the cleansing work of the Holy Spirit as god forgives the sins of everyone who comes to Jesus for salvation.

Ephesians 5:26

that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the **washing of water by the word**,

2. **The Spirit**—clearly speaking of a supernatural work by the Holy Spirit as the believer comes to Jesus for their forgiveness and invites him to be their savior.

In verse 7—Jesus say’s “*Hey don’t try to over simplify what I just said, it really is just that simple: you are born once as a human, you need to be born once as a heavenly creature, that can only happen by my spirit.*”

John 3

7 “Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘**You must** be born again.’

Notice the urgency of Jesus message—“You must be”.

- ⊕ **Must in the Greek** is “dei” (**die**)—This is called and “**Absolute imperative**”.
- ⊕ **The literal meaning of “die” is:** “*a response that is necessary because of the circumstances or conduct of others.*”
- ⊕ **Because we were completely lost and helpless**—someone had to come from outside our world—Jesus came to rescue us.

Let’s look at Romans 5:6-9 where we get a vivid picture of this:

Romans 5

6 When we were utterly helpless, with no way of escape, Jesus came at just the right time and died for us sinners who had no use for him.

7 Even if we were good, we really wouldn't expect anyone to die for us, though, of course, that might be barely possible.

8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Jesus to die for us while we were still sinners.

9 And **since by his blood he did all this for us as sinners, how much more will he do for us now that he has declared us not guilty?** Now he will save us from all of God's wrath to come. (TLB)

- ⊕ **So Jesus tells Nicodemus in verse 7:** This new birth is so important that you must have it to obtain eternal life, without the new birth there is no eternal life.
- ⊕ **Paul adds to this in Romans chapter 5** that I just read: “God showed us his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us **while we were still sinners.**”—**he did this while we were separated from him!**

- ☞ **The I love the next part Paul puts in there—in verse 9** “*Since he did all this for us while we were just sinners, how much more will he do for you in your life since you have been saved by him and are his child?*”
- ☞ **The answer:** There is no limit to what he will do for you now in your life. **You only have to ask him for what you need and then trust him.**

If the Lord was loving you even when you were at your very worst moment, that even when you were the farthest from God, He still loved you at that moment...

Think of that moment in your life that you are most ashamed of...Jesus was there and He was loving you even then...

If He loved you when you were at your worst, is there anything now that you can do that will make Him stop loving you? **Of course not.**

And If He gave to you His very best when you were at your worst, will He not now that you are His, give you everything that you need, of course He will!

[John 3](#)

8 "**The wind** blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of **the Spirit.**"

- ☞ **Now Jesus explains to Nicodemus**—and to us how this new birth takes place; **by the Holy Spirit.**
- ☞ **Perhaps anticipating Nicodemus question,** Jesus tells him **the work cannot be seen by human eyes, it is just like the wind.**
- ☞ **We cannot see the wind but we can see the effects of it,** this is the way the Holy Spirit works in the life of the believer.
- ☞ **In the Hebrew language** the words “**Spirit**” and “**Wind**” are identical, they are both “**Pneuma**”.
- ☞ **Pneuma can be translated:**
 1. A gentle blast of air. **Or**
 2. The breath that is within your nostrils—**but it can also be:**
 3. The spirit within you, the vital part of every human being that makes them a living **being, and finally it can also be:**
 4. The Spirit of God, his life giving power that comes from his very essence.

In Verse 8 Jesus Is Using “**Pneuma**” As The Spirit Of God It Moves Upon A Person Life To Bring To Them The Spirit Of God, His Very Essence And Life, They Come To Take Residence In The Life Of The Believer.

[John 3](#)

9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "**How can these things be?**"

Jesus explained the new birth plainly and simply, but Nicodemus just does not get it.

Nicodemus has a hard time understanding the new birth because he is thinking the way men think, that it doesn't make rational sense.

- ☞ **It doesn't make any sense** to me that the Lord loves me.
- ☞ **I don't understand** why Jesus loved me so much that He was willing to suffer so much for me.
- ☞ **But how grateful** I am that He does...

John 3

10 Jesus answered and said to him, "**Are you the teacher (DIDASKALOS) of Israel**, and do not know these things?

11 "Most assuredly, I say to you, **We speak** what **We know** and testify what **We have seen**, and you do not receive **Our witness**.

Who are the "we" Jesus is speaking of?

- ☞ **Remember in verse 2**, Nicodemus said: "**We know you are a teacher come from God**. The "*we*" were the **others in the religious leadership** who also were seeking Jesus.
- ☞ **Here Jesus uses** the "we" in a completely different way.
- ☞ **Some interpretations of this verse** say Jesus is speaking of the disciples, but Jesus in this context, is talking about spiritual rebirth.
- ☞ **He says "we know, we have seen"** Amazingly, this seems to indicate Jesus I speaking of the trinity, and their witness of what is needed for eternal life.

This appears to be a description of information Jesus received from the father.

In john 5:30 Jesus describes how he gets his knowledge:

John 5:30

30 "**I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge**; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

- ☞ **When Jesus came to us the first time**, He came as a servant, to lay his life down.
- ☞ **Everything Jesus did** was in submission to the will of the father.
- ☞ **Here in john 3:11**, He speaks of things the father has shown him.

John 3

12 "If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

13 "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.

In verse 12: "*How can I explain to you what Heaven is like if you do not even know how the Lord works here on earth?*"

- ☞ **The things of the Spirit of God** cannot be known by the human mind unless god reveals them to us.

Matthew 11:25

At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes

You cannot ever know the Lord of the Universe by human wisdom, you can only know Him by first humbling yourself and then seeking Him with all of your heart.

Matthew 16:13-17

13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "**Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?**"

14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

15 He said to them, "But **who do you say that I am?**"

16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-jonah, **for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven**

- ☞ Jesus told Nicodemus about the wind, the earthly things, and he did not understand the parallel between the wind and God's spirit.
- ☞ **So Jesus says:** "Then how Nicodemus can you understand the infinite God of this Universe.
- ☞ **The answer is:** "You cannot".

Deuteronomy 29:29

"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

It cracks me up when people say to me that they cannot believe in Jesus because they don't understand Him.

- ☞ **Hello!**, If you could understand Him, if you could figure Him out, He wouldn't be God.
- ☞ **He is God because He is infinite**, He is beyond our ability to understand, unless He chooses to reveal Himself to us.

Job 9:10

He does great things **past finding out**, Yes, wonders without number.

Romans 11:33

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! **How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!**

You cannot ever know the God of the Universe by trying to measure Him by human understanding, He cannot be know by any human effort.

- ☞ **You can not**, You will not ever know Him unless **He CHOOSES** to reveal Himself to you.
- ☞ **And who does He choose** to reveal Himself to:

Matthew 18:3

Jesus said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are changed and become like little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

That is, someone who has made themselves Like a child:

- ☞ **A child** is humble.
- ☞ Teachable.
- ☞ Trusting.
- ☞ Has a soft heart.

So If I am full of pride, I will never know the Lord.

- ☞ **If I am not able to receive teaching** or instruction, I cannot know the Lord.
- ☞ **If I think that I am pretty smart**, then I cannot know God.
- ☞ **If I do not trust Him**, He will not reveal Himself to me.
- ☞ **If my heart is hard**, I will not be able to let His love inside.

There are today, right here in this Sanctuary, there are **those that are bored and not paying attention to God’s voice.**

He is speaking all of the time, but very often we are not listening...

7 times in the Book of Revelation, Jesus said:

Revelation 2:7

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says

One day, Jesus was sitting on a Hill and looking out over Jerusalem.

Matthew 23:37

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!

Luke 19:41

Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it,

In Jesus weeping over Jerusalem, we see the true heart of God.

- ☞ **Even as wicked** and messed up as they were, He still loved them.
- ☞ **He still** wants to do good for them.

- ☞ **He still wants** to protect them.
- ☞ **The same way** that a mother hen would gather her chicks under her wings.
- ☞ **Jesus said** “I wanted to be close to you, but you were not willing...”

There is only one thing that prevents a human being from knowing and experiencing the Love of God for them in their life, their unwillingness to accept it.

- ☞ **The Lord** wants desperately for you to know Him.
- ☞ **He would do anything** to be able to show you His great love for you.
- ☞ **But you have a choice**, to either draw near to Him and ask Him to come into your life and give His love to you, or to exercise your choice and not want Him in your life and refuse His love.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance

Isaiah 59:1

Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear.

2 But **your sins have separated you** from your God

Notice that it says that YOUR SINS have separated YOU from YOUR GOD.

- ☞ **Not your sins** have separated God from you.
- ☞ **Our past and present sins** make us want to separate ourselves from the Lord.
- ☞ **Because we are either** ashamed of them.
- ☞ **Or we like them** and we want to keep them.

No matter what the state of your life today, If you come to Jesus with all of your sins and asks Him in true repentance and humility, He will forgive you and cleanse you and give you a brand new start.

John 3

13 "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.

In verse 13, Jesus tells us why he is uniquely qualified to tell us about heaven, because Jesus has been there.

- ☞ **Later Jesus tells us why** he is qualified to tell us about the horrors of hell, Because he went there and saw it.
- ☞ **Did you know** that Jesus spoke more about Hell than He did about Heaven.
- ☞ **Because He knows** that it is a real place.
- ☞ **The people there are conscious**, they feel, they see, they think, they have regrets, they wish they had chosen to receive Gods love and turn from their sins.

Study Luke chapter 16

John 3

14 "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

In the Book of Numbers, the people had been bitten by a venomous snake, because of all of their complaining against the Lord.

Finally, the Lord had heard enough...

Numbers 21

6 So the **LORD sent fiery serpents among the people**, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.

7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "**We have sinned**, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

8 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and **set it on a pole**; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, **when he looks at it, shall live.**"

9 So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

By all rights, the Lord should have just destroyed them all, but He is very patient and He doesn't want to destroy, He wants to bless people.

- ☞ **This verse in the Book of Numbers** is incredible because it shows that the Cross of Jesus was being taught in a "**type**" even in the Old Testament.

We know that this is true because Jesus quotes from this verse in numbers 21 we just read.

- ☞ **According to these verse in the book of numbers**, The Lord sent a plague of snakes to punish the people for their rebellious attitudes.
- ☞ **In his love**, as He always does, along with the punishment, he provides a way of escape.

Moses erect a pole with a bronze snake attached to the top of the pole.

- ☞ **Everyone bitten** by the snakes could be forgiven and healed by simply looking to the pole Moses was holding up.
- ☞ **It was a simple act**, but many refused to believe—did not look at the pole—and died.

The picture here for us is the same: Jesus came to die for us, as he is lifted up on the cross, all we have to do is look to him for our salvation and God will forgive us and give us eternal life.

Jesus said in john chapter 12:

John 12:32-33

32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

33 This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

According to the language structure of Jesus day: "**To be lifted up**" meant to be crucified upon a cross.

John 3

15 "that whoever **believes in Him** should not perish but have eternal life.

16 "For **God so loved** the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

In absolutely every place in the scripture, where it talks about God's love for us, it always say's "**He gave**"

- ☞ **This is what the love of God is all about**—he gives and gives and gives, even though we reject him, use his name in cursing, pretend he does not have any rights in my life and completely reject him.

In James 2:19

19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. BUT NOTICE Even the demons believe-- and tremble! THE DEMONS BELIEVE IN GOD TOO—BUT THEY ARE NOT SAVED.

- ☞ **This Greek word "pisteo"** or **believe**, is the kind of action word or verb that has to do with a "**change**"
- ☞ **If you believe in the savior Jesus** it will change you. If there has not been any change, there could not have been a genuine trust or belief in Jesus.

The importance of belief is not found in **the one doing the believing** but to **where the belief is directed at**.

- ☞ **There are 7 things** we discover from john 3:16

John 3

16 "For **God so loved** the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

1. The world was already ruined, lost, and condemned.
2. It was because of God's "agape" love that he provided a rescue plan.
3. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ was the only plan that was acceptable to God.
4. Sin must be an indescribably terrible thing to the Lord, because it requires such a great sacrifice.
5. No one is saved unless they believe in the one who made the sacrifice, Jesus.
6. Everyone who does believe receives 2 benefits:

- ☞ **They become exempt** from any future judgment or punishment.
- ☞ **They are given** a life without end.

7. No other creature in heaven or on earth has this opportunity except mankind.

John 3

17 "For God did not send His Son into the world **to condemn** the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Jesus did not come to condemn you or the world, you and the whole world were already condemned.

- ☞ **He came for one reason**, to save you.

John 3

18 "He who believes in Him **is not condemned**; but he who does not believe **is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

- ☞ **The 3 words** "is not condemned" are in **the present tense**, you are not condemned at the moment you believe Jesus died for you.
- ☞ **The negative side of this is a confirmation of verse 17**—the whole human race is already condemned before Jesus came—the individual members of the planet become "**not condemned**" when they place themselves "**in Jesus**".

John 3

19 "And **this is the condemnation**, that the light has come into the world, JESUS CHRIST and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

21 "But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

- ☞ **The truth of verse 19-21** is that whatever excuses people give for not surrendering their life to Jesus Christ, He knows there is really just one reason, they Love their sin.
- ☞ **The good news is** that everyone who wants to escape the darkness can do so by finding the light—the lord Jesus.

The message this morning is that—not matter what you have done with your life up to this point—it is not to late this morning to start over.

Jesus came to offer you forgiveness from god and eternal life if you will trust him.

If you want these things this morning—pray with me to receive Jesus and he will give you

- ☞ **Forgiveness**—from everything you have done—everything!
- ☞ **Eternal life**—can you imagine—you can live forever!
- ☞ **Peace**—a peace that is unlike anything you have ever known before

- ☞ **Joy**—that rises up in the depths of your heart that lasts forever.
- ☞ **An assurance** that you will go to heaven and live forever when you die.

If you want these things pray with me to ask Jesus to come into your heart:

Dear lord Jesus:

Please forgive me for all of my sins

I want to accept you right now as my lord and my savior

Please cleanse me from every sin I have done Jesus

I believe the you died upon the cross for my sins Jesus

I want to give you my whole heart and live for you the rest of my life

Please come into my heart and make me a brand new creation