



STUDY 4: John 3:1-21 Born New

What would you say to someone who says:

“I don’t hurt anyone and try to be a good person – God will accept me” or

“I grew up going to church - me and God are OK”

CONTEXT – Where does it fit?

1. Read John 3:1-2. What does this tell us about Nicodemus and the context of his conversation with Jesus?

OBSERVATION – How is it communicated?

2. Read John 3:1-21. What genre is this writing? Try to work out which bits are said by Jesus and which are commentary from the gospel writer John. (NB try to disregard red letter versions of the Bible)
3. Are there any key words or phrases that stand out?

MEANING – What does it mean?

4. How does Jesus explain being “born again” in vv. 5-9?
5. How do verses 13-15 add to our understanding of the process of being “born again”? (see Numbers 21:4-9)
6. What does it mean that “whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son” (v.18)?
7. Verses 19-21 talk about light and darkness. How does this relate to being “born again” in Jesus?

APPLICATION – How does it change us?

8. How would you explain what it means to be “born again” to someone new to Christianity?
9. How do you respond to the following statements:

“It is impossible to be a Christian and NOT be born again”

“It is possible to say you’re a Christian and NOT be born again”

10. How can we live in the light and not in the darkness each day?