

## (8) Teaches Nicodemus about Salvation (John 3:1-21)

1. A Pharisee and Jewish ruler named Nicodemus came to Christ and received the greatest Gospel message in the entire Bible (Jn. 3:1-21).
  - a. The Pharisees were the most powerful political party at this time. They achieved their position and status through adherence to and expert knowledge of the Law.
  - b. Nicodemus. Νικόδημος Nikodēmos <sup>#3530</sup><sub>5x</sub>: *conqueror*. νῖκος nikos + δῆμος dēmos.
  - c. A ruler of the Jews. Not only a Pharisee, but a voting member of the Sanhedrin (Jn. 7:50).
2. Nicodemus confessed the Pharisees understanding of Christ's origin (v.2).
3. Jesus laid out the only issue that matters to this lost and dying world. With the heavenly credentials established, the heavenly message must be given: "you must be born again" (vv.3,7).
4. The second birth cannot be understood in natural, human terms (vv.4-6). It is a spiritual action that cannot be physically seen, but it can certainly be felt (v.8).
5. Academic Bible knowledge is not the total answer. We must humbly accept the heavenly message as it has been given (vv.9-13).
6. The crucifixion of Jesus Christ is the only means by which mankind might receive eternal life by means of grace through faith (vv.14,15).
7. In this Gospel message, Christ reveals the Father's Gift (vv.16,17).
8. Failure to believe results in death as the fallen estate of the natural man (v.18).
9. Light & darkness are in conflict even as the saved and the lost are in conflict (vv.19-21).