



HARVEST FORT WORTH/EQUIP GROUP

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NICODEMUS, THE NIGHT VISITOR (NIC AT NIGHT)

John 3:1-21 (Nicodemus is only mentioned in 3 passages)

1 There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. 2 After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you."

- ***His name means: "Victory of the common people"***
- ***There were 6,000 Pharisee's or so at the time of Jesus ministry but Nicodemus was the only one that seems to have converted to Jesus.***

Christ that is mentioned in the four gospels.

- Nicodemus was a Pharisee and leader in the Sanhedrin. This would be like the Supreme Court in America. There were 70 men on this court plus the High Priest.
- Pharisee's were generally rich, men of power and authority, very religious, the elite of the community and followers of the law but they did not have a relationship with God. Religious people give the illusion of knowing God but they are deceived.

JESUS SAID TO NICODEMUS, "YOU MUST BE BORN FROM ABOVE"

3 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God." 4 "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?"

John 1:10-13

10 He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him.

11 He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. 12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

13 They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

5 Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.

• **Jesus was saying to Nicodemus all religious works, legalism, sacrifices, vows of keeping the law, better morality would not cause the Jews to inherit Eternal Life. Nicodemus had Abraham as the father of Israel but he didn't know his Heavenly Father through faith in Jesus Christ.**

1 Peter 1:3

3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation 4 and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.

1 Peter 1:23

23 For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God.

ONLY THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN PRODUCE SPIRITUAL LIFE IN HUMAN HEARTS

6 Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. 7 So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit.”

THIS RELIGIOUS LEADER SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THESE THINGS (The Teacher has to teach the teacher)

9 “How are these things possible?” Nicodemus asked. 10 Jesus replied, “You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don't understand these things? 11 I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won't believe our testimony. 12 But if you don't believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things?”

EZEKIEL 36:25-27

25 “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no

longer worship idols. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

ONLY THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN CHRIST WILL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

13 No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven. 14 And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.

THE GOSPEL OR THE PLAN OF SALVATION IS EXPLAINED

16 “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. 17 God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

BELIEVE IN CHRIST AND BE SAVED, REJECT CHRIST AND BE JUDGED

18 “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. 19 And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. 20 All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. 21 But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.”

NICODEMUS SHOWS SIGNS OF BELIEVING IN CHRIST

John 7:46-51 (Nicodemus speaks up for Jesus)

46 “We have never heard anyone speak like this!” the guards responded. 47 “Have you been led astray, too?” the Pharisees mocked. 48 “Is there a single one of us rulers or Pharisees who believes in him? 49 This foolish crowd follows him, but they are ignorant of the law. God’s curse is on them!” 50 Then Nicodemus, the leader who had met with Jesus earlier, spoke up. 51 “Is it legal to convict a man before he is given a hearing?” he asked.

JOHN 19:38-42 (Nicodemus was at the burial of Jesus)

38 Afterward Joseph of Arimathea, who had been a secret disciple of Jesus (because he feared the Jewish leaders), asked Pilate for permission to take down Jesus’ body. When Pilate gave permission, Joseph came and took the body away. 39 **With him came Nicodemus, the man who had**

come to Jesus at night. He brought about seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from myrrh and aloes. 40 Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus' body with the spices in long sheets of linen cloth. 41 The place of crucifixion was near a garden, where there was a new tomb, never used before. 42 And so, because it was the day of preparation for the Jewish Passover and since the tomb was close at hand, **they laid Jesus there.**

The Story of the New Birth in Christ Jesus...Do You Believe it?