

Squaw Creek Baptist Church, Marion, IA.
Pastor Kleeberger

SERMON OUTLINE 9/13/09

BIBLE PASSAGE: [John 3:1-21](#)

TITLE: “NOT JUST RELIGION BUT A RELATIONSHIP
WITH GOD, THRU CHRIST”

INTRO:

1. The Nicodemus story summarizes the GOSPEL/nothing casual about the phrase, “born again.”
2. Nicodemus was interested in Jesus Christ/miracles, and
_____.
3. *John 3:2-10*/dialogue. *John 3:11-21*/discourse from Christ on SALVATION.

PROPOSITION: There is a universal need among mankind for a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

I. THE PAST LIFE OF NICODEMUS.

- A. Consider His Background.
 1. _____ into devout Jewish family.
 2. Raised in devout Judaism/from age 4 into adulthood.
- B. Consider His Religious Position.
 1. Nicodemus excelled in religion/Pharisee sect and Sanhedrin.
 2. Religious and community _____, yet missing spiritual peace.

II. THE SPIRITUAL CONDITION OF NICODEMUS, (Upon Meeting Jesus).

- A. Notice His Perception, *verse 2*.
 1. Crowds were amazed/Jesus could not be ignored, cf. [Matthew 7:28 & 29](#).

2. Certainly Nicodemus had heard the _____ of John the Baptist, cf. [Mark 1:1-5](#).
 3. Repentance was a big theme for John. Is it necessary?
- B. Notice His Problem, *verses 3-5*.
1. Nicodemus had religion, but religion did not satisfy his soul-need.
 2. Why did he come at _____?
 3. *Verse 4*-Nicodemus pressed it/wanted to understand.
 4. Jesus quickly _____ Nicodemus from the physical to the spiritual.
 5. [Romans 3:23](#); [John 10:9](#); [14:16](#) & [Romans 10:9, 10](#).
 6. Belief in a higher power is no substitute/It must be Christ! Cf. [Acts 4:8-13](#) & [John 1:6-13](#).

III. THE SPIRITUAL CONDITION OF NICODEMUS, (After Meeting Jesus).

- A. The Requirement Of The New Birth.
1. “Whoever believes”, *verses 15 & 16*. The universal standard is personal repentance and faith.
 2. Was Nicodemus a _____ disciple? Cf. [John 19:38-42](#). Did God desire him and Joseph to be more?
- B. What’s Your Condition/What Does The Record Say?
1. [Revelation 13:8](#); [20:15](#) & [John 3:36](#).
 2. [Luke 16](#) underscores the urgency from hell’s perspective/“_____ my brothers!”
 3. Three human questions...

CONCLUSION:

1. Do you have Christ?
2. You can be saved today!