



NEW LIFE

REAL CHANGE FROM THE INSIDE OUT

JOHN 3:1-21

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Poin Radio Ministries • April 8, 2012 • Resurrection Sunday • CD 12-12

1. See _____ (vv.1-2)

2. Admit _____ (vv.3-8)

3. Exclusively _____ (vv.9-16)

4. Realize _____ (vv.17-21)

1 Now 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." **3** Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." **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, "Truly, truly, 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. **7** Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' **8** The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." **9** Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" **10** Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? **11** Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. **12** If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. **14** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. **16** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. **18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. **19** And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. **20** For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. **21** But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God." (ESV)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **Romans 2:1-5**. How would you explain the ease with which we can find fault in others, yet excuse the same kind of faults in ourselves?
2. Read **Luke 18:9-14**. Why is it difficult for those who perceive themselves to be morally better than others to see their need for Christ?
3. Read **2 Corinthians 5:17-18** and **1 Corinthians 1:26-31**. What would you say to someone who tells you he doesn't feel like he can change or be good enough to be a Christian?
4. Read **Romans 4:2-8**. How would you explain the difference between those who are trying to be good enough to be right with God and those described in this passage?
5. Read **Luke 9:23-26**. What are some of the common things people choose to hold on to, preferring to "keep" or "save" the things in their lives they enjoy and prefer, instead of turning to follow and trust in Christ?

The following related sermons are also available for free as mp3 downloads or audio streaming on the Focal Point Website (FocalPointMinistries.org).

CD # 9724 – ***But I've Always Been a "Christian"***
CD # 0815 – ***How to Get Eternal Life: The Only Right Response***
CD # 0614 – ***A Crash Course in Repentance and Faith***
CD # 0663 – ***The Sin Problem: And Our Problem with Sin***
CD # 0651 – ***A Day of Reckoning: Understanding God's Judgment***
CD # 1114 – ***Did It Really Happen? Why We Actually Believe in the Resurrection***

The CBC Bible Reading Schedule for this Week:

Go to ESV.org (Reading Plans: Though the Bible) for schedule prompts.

April 8th

Ruth 1-4 & Lk. 11:29-54

April 9th

1Sam. 1-3 & Lk. 12:1-34

April 10th

1Sam. 4-6 & Lk. 12:35-59

April 11th

1Sam. 7-9 & Lk. 13:1-21

April 12th

1Sam. 10-12 & Lk. 13:22-35

April 13th

1Sam. 13-14 & Lk. 14:1-24

April 14th

1Sam. 15-16 & Lk. 14:25-35

April 15th

1Sam. 17-18 & Lk. 15:1-10

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Bruce, F. F. ***The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?*** Eerdmans, 2010.
Carson, D. A. ***The Gagging of God: Christianity Confronts Pluralism***. Zondervan, 1996.
Chantry, Walter J. ***Today's Gospel: Authentic or Synthetic?*** Banner of Truth, 1970.
Craig, William Lane. ***Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics***. Crossway, 1984.
Fabarez, Mike. ***Getting It Right: The Real Problem and God's Perfect Solution***. Focal Point, 2011.
MacArthur, John. ***The Gospel According to Jesus: What is Authentic Faith?*** Zondervan, 2008.
McGrath, Alister. ***Intellectuals Don't Need God and Other Modern Myths***. Zondervan, 1993.
Nash, Ronald H. ***Is Jesus the Only Savior?*** Zondervan, 1994.
Pache, Rene. ***The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture***. Moody Press, 1969.
Packer, J. I. ***Knowing God***. InterVarsity Press, 1973.
Schaeffer, Francis A. ***The Finished Work of Christ: The Truth of Romans 1 – 8***. Crossway Books, 1998.
Sproul, R. C. ***Faith Alone: The Evangelical Doctrine of Justification***. Baker Books, 1995.
Stott, John R. W. ***The Cross of Christ***. InterVarsity Press, 1986.
White, James R. ***The God Who Justifies***. Bethany House, 2001.