

*Morning Sermon Outline / September 25, 2022*  
*"New Birth & The Cross" John 3:1-8 and John 3:14-17*

I. *See the New Birth as something that enables vision of Christ and His Kingdom –*

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, **"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."** John 3:3 (NKJV)

1. *Without the New Birth we are blind to God's Kingdom -*  
**...he cannot see the kingdom of God."** John 3:3 (NKJV)

2. *No vision, no understanding, no desire for it, no taste of it or joy in it –*  
<sup>9</sup> But as it is written: **"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."** 1 Corinthians 2:9 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)

3. *With the new birth, through God's Spirit, God's people do see these things –*  
<sup>9</sup> But as it is written: **"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."** <sup>10</sup> **But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.** For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 1 Corinthians 2:9–10 (NKJV)

II. *A big part of seeing God's Kingdom, is seeing Christ's cross –*

1. *The necessity of it was almost certainly what Nicodemus was missing, and most definitely was most of the Jewish leaders and people were missing, it is what TOO MANY people MISS –*  
<sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18 (NKJV)

A. *It was prophesied that they would miss / not see this –*  
<sup>53</sup> Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup> For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, *There is no beauty that we should desire Him.* <sup>3</sup> He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.* <sup>4</sup> Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. Isaiah 53:1–4 (NKJV)

B. *It is clear that they missed this, a suffering King, Messiah was not what they expected, desired or in any way respected –*  
<sup>19</sup> So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. <sup>2</sup> And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put *it* on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. <sup>3</sup> Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands. <sup>4</sup> Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him." <sup>5</sup> Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!" <sup>6</sup> Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him." John 19:1–6 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" John 19:15 (NKJV)

2. *Part of what even Nicodemus' party of "believing Pharisees" may have MISSED may have been due to a misreading of His strong stance in the Temple –*

A. *The temple in Jesus' day was controlled by the Sadducees, descendants of Zadok, who High Priest in David's day, who anointed Solomon as King –*

<sup>39</sup> **Then Zadok the priest took a horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon. And they blew the horn, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!" 1 Kings 1:39 (NKJV)**

B. *The original sons of Zadok, seemed righteous men -*

the names Zadok / Sadducee (from Zadok) had some connection to the Hebrew adjective "just" or "righteous" (צַדִּיק, tsaddiq).

C. *However, by the time of the writing of the dead sea scrolls, this same name / title had negative connotations "Wicked Priest" or "Seekers of Smooth Things." A.A. Das*

*In Jesus' day, they were deniers of the resurrection. Some, maybe many, are said to have purchased their pedigree and so were not the progeny of Zadok, not even physically, definitely not spiritually or morally!*

*It was these, and or their helpers whom Jesus chased out of the Temple and good Pharisees would have agreed with and rejoiced in this! Yet, they also expected Christ to defeat the Romans, which Christ did not do!*

3. *Even the Apostle Peter missed the importance of the cross, for a while, it is not something we SEE like we should –*

<sup>21</sup> **From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. <sup>22</sup> Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" <sup>23</sup> But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." Matthew 16:21–23 (NKJV)**

III. *Even today we need to see and embrace Christ cross as the power of God for our salvation –*

1. *Christ's cross shows us how wicked we are, and the wrath, anger from God, that we deserve –*

<sup>14</sup> **And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, John 3:14 (NKJV)**

2. *Why did Moses even need to lift a serpent in the wilderness?*

<sup>4</sup> **Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. <sup>5</sup> And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread." <sup>6</sup> So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.**

<sup>7</sup> **Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.**

<sup>8</sup> **Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live." <sup>9</sup> So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived. Numbers 21:4–9 (NKJV)**

A. *The people had sinned, they spoke against (1) God :5 (2) God's man Moses :5 and (3) God's gracious provision of manna, which they called this worthless bread :5*

B. *Because of this complaining God punished the people with fiery serpents :6*

C. *Because of the death caused by these serpents the people rightly realized their own sin, prayed to God and were given a remedy, a bronze serpent on a pole – Numbers 21:6–9 (NKJV)*

*A serpent bronzed, on a pole, would form the shape of a cross! This cross was their salvation! Christ's cross is the fulfillment of the bronze serpent type and a powerful and immediate NEED for a Savior from sin –*

3. *The fiery serpents were sent by God, they were expressions of His wrath, to punish the sin of not trusting in and believing in Him –*

4. *God punishes sin today by giving us up to a debased mind –*

<sup>28</sup> **And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; <sup>29</sup> being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, <sup>30</sup> backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; <sup>32</sup> who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. Romans 1:28–32 (NKJV)**

*Each of the sins listed here in Romans 1:28-31 we should see as a poisonous FIERY SERPENT -<sup>9</sup> being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, ...*

*These are killing daily, constantly, and the ungodly are filling Hell FAST! Dr. Rachel Levine, pictured below, is a man who thinks he is a woman. Is a leader in our country's government. Assistant secretary of health and human services.*



*He / she is one who would consider one of our top health priorities the transitioning of boys into girls and of course, girls into boys, in our public schools. When already transitioned children or adults commit suicide, Rachel Levine attributes this SUICIDE, NOT to the transition itself, which is traumatic, destructive and*

*unnatural but rather to those he / she calls "haters" or "extremists" who disagree with this life-style, even including the parents of children in this! This is just one of many current fiery serpents! In the last couple of years, the number of people claiming to be transgender has changed dramatically. From 1/10,000 males 1/30,000 females ... to now 1/20 girls in college claims to be transgender. Now, is God in control of such people having positions of power in our country? In our schools? In hospitals? Yes, He is!*

*What does He desire from us? We need to see our own situation as a fiery serpent situation!*

*Even Nicodemus was in a fiery serpent situation: They were ruled by Rome! His companions were hypocrites! His own heart was far, far from perfect to the point the ONLY SOLUTION was the DEATH of God's Son –*

<sup>21</sup> **For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)**

5. *So, the solution is not politics, at least not politics alone, but personal repentance! Prayer! Not Caesar, or a Caesar like savior, but Jesus Christ and His cross! His cross is still the solution! This we need to see!*

*It is a solution we CANNOT see with being born again!*

6. *This is why the cross is EPHASIZED as that we are to preach and teach –*

<sup>2</sup> For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.  
1 Corinthians 2:2 (NKJV)

7. *It is why the cross is EMPHASIZED as that we are to remember, the Lord's Supper –*

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; <sup>24</sup> and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, **"Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."** <sup>25</sup> In the same manner *He* also took the cup after supper, saying, **"This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me."** <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV)

8. *The cross is the only remedy for sin, and an extremely effective one –*

<sup>15</sup> **that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.** <sup>16</sup> **For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.** <sup>17</sup> **For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.** John 3:15–17 (NKJV)

A. *For individual sin – "What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!  
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!" Robert Lowry*

B. *For societal sin –*

<sup>6</sup> **Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You?** <sup>7</sup> **Show us Your mercy, LORD, And grant us Your salvation.** Psalm 85:6–7 (NKJV) *We have spiritual weapons -*

<sup>4</sup> **For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,** <sup>5</sup> **casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,** 2 Corinthians 10:4–5 (NKJV) *Prayer / God's Word!*

9. *For the Israelites it was a look at the serpent on a pole –*

... if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived. Numbers 21:9 (NKJV)

10. *For us, a look to God, a look to Christ as savior –*

<sup>22</sup> **"Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.** Isaiah 45:22 (NKJV)

... <sup>2</sup> **looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.** Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)

11. *We need to take up our own crosses –*

<sup>24</sup> **Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.** Matthew 16:24 (NKJV) *A battle against sin and self-indulgence, a Spirit empowered choosing of God's Kingdom!*

12. *Our own cross-taking obedience to God shines in a world full of disobedience –*

<sup>12</sup> **Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. <sup>14</sup> Do all things without complaining and disputing, <sup>15</sup> that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,** Philippians 2:12–15 (NKJV) *See also Philippians 2:1-11!*

*Arnold A. Brevick*