

“What’s the Big Idea: You Must be Born Again!”

John 3: 1-9

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June 28, 2015

Introduction: Chuck Colson & Jimmy Carter
What’s the Big Idea: Glorify God and Enjoy Him
What’s the Big Idea: What is God?
Renaissance, Regeneration & Born Again

FAQ # 94 – Is there any use to the moral law to man since the fall?

A – Although no man, since the fall, can attain to righteousness and life by the moral law; yet there is great use thereof, as well common to all men, as peculiar either to the unregenerate or the regenerate.”

I. Jesus and Nicodemus

- a. The story of Nicodemus really begins – not in 3: 1 but in 2: 24, 25**
- b. This verse marks a change in themes fro the author**
 - i. The first two chapters of John deal with the person of Jesus Christ**
 - ii. Vs. 24 & 25 introduce the theme: “what is in *man*?”**
- c. John 3: 1 – “There was a *man* . . .”**
- d. Nicodemus was the first illustration to John’s point in 2: 24, 25**

II. Nicodemus was:

- a. Representative**
- b. Pharisee**
- c. Pedagogically Superior**
- d. Of Pedigree**
- e. Politician**

III. Born Again

- a. John 3: 3 – “Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”**
- b. There will be no ultimate peace in the souls of man, no triumph over hate and selfishness without a spiritual birth – not renewal, rebirth**
- c. Bad news**
 - i. Left to ourselves we would all be in trouble with God**
 - 1. We are, each one sinners**
 - ii. Sin has consequences – chaos in our worlds, tyranny of government, turmoil in relationships**
 - iii. There is nothing in and of ourselves we can do about it. Nicodemus, of all people, should have been able to fix it – if it is humanly possible.**
 - 1. “By works of the law shall no man be justified before God.”**
Rom. 3: 20
 - iv. There is good news – God did for us what we could not do for ourselves.**
 - v. God caused us to be born again to a living hope**
 - vi. Our part is to repent and believe**

IV. Take Away

- a. Crowds us in three ways:**
 - i. Confronts us with our helplessness and spiritual & moral condition**
 - ii. It is something done to us**
 - iii. Reminds us God is God and we are not**

Other Relevant Scripture
What's the Big Idea: You Must Be Born Again

FAQ (Larger Catechism) – Is there any use to the moral law to man since the fall?

A. – Although no man, since the fall, can attain to righteousness and life by the moral law; yet there is great use thereof, as well common to all men, as peculiar either to the unregenerate or the regenerate.

John 2: 24, 25 – “But Jesus on His part did not entrust Himself to them, because He knew people and needed no one to bear witness about man for He Himself knew what was in man.”

John 3: 1 – “There was a man . . .”

John 3: 2 – “This man came to Jesus by night . . .”

John 3: 2 – “ . . . A ruler of the Jews.”

John 3: 2 – “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher sent from God . . .”

John 3: 3 – “Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Romans 3: 20 – “By works of the law [good deeds] shall no man be made right with god.”

Galatians 2: 16 – “yet we know that a person is not justified [right with God] by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ.”

Galatians 2: 21 – “If righteousness were through the law [good deeds], then Christ died for no purpose.”

1 Peter 1: 3 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope.”

John 3: 5 – “Truly, truly I say to you unless one is born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

2 Corinthians 5: 17 – “Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away, the new has come.”

John 3: 6 – “That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”