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Look to Christ

John 3:9-15
February 19, 2017

I. Spiritual Understanding Does Not Come From Religious Education (vv. 9-10)

- A. The _____ of the new birth (Jn. 3:1-8)
- B. The _____ of human thinking
(Jn. 2:19; 4:10-12; 6:51-52; 7:33-36; 8:21-22, 31-33)
- C. The _____ for spiritual enlightenment
(1 Cor. 2:14; Prov. 4:19; Eph. 4:18; Job 34:32; Ps. 119:18)

II. Spiritual Illumination Can Only Come From Receiving the Testimony of Christ (vv. 11-12)

- A. Jesus speaks of divine _____ (Jn. 17:1-5)
- B. The Jews do not accept Jesus' _____
(Jn. 3:31-32; Matt. 12:22-25)
- C. New birth starts simple but grows in its _____
(Jn. 3:7, 12; Heb. 5:11-14; Mk. 4:28)

III. Spiritual Access Into Heaven Is Only Possible Because of Jesus (v. 13)

- A. Only Jesus can claim to have _____ into heaven
(Prov. 30:4; Acts 2:34; 2 Cor. 12:1-4)
- B. Only Jesus can bring the _____ of heaven
(Jn. 1:18; 6:33, 38, 51, 62)
- C. Only Jesus can provide _____ into heaven
(Heb. 4:14-16; Acts 4:12)

IV. Spiritual Life Can Only Come to Those Who Look To Christ (vv. 14-15)

- A. The _____ serpent on the pole (Num. 21:4-9)
- B. The _____ Christ who took our place
(Gal. 3:13; Rom. 8:3; 2 Cor. 5:21)
- C. The _____ that leads to eternal life (Jn. 3:15)

TAKE HOME

Six Things the Israelites Were Not Asked To Do:

1. They were not told to _____ some ointment as the means of healing their wounds.
2. They were not told to _____ to others who were wounded, in order to get relief for themselves.
3. They were not told to _____ the serpents.
4. They were not told to make an _____ to the serpent on the pole.
5. They were not told to look at _____.
6. They were not told to look at their _____.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a Small Group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please call the church office at (661) 259-2913.

1. Read John 3:9-10. How does this passage teach that spiritual understanding does not come from religious education? How does Jn. 2:19; 4:10-12; 6:51-52; 7:33-36; 8:21-22, and 31-33 help reinforce this truth?

2. Read 1 Cor. 2:14; Prov. 4:19; Eph. 4:18; Job 34:32; Ps. 119:18. How do these verses show our need for spiritual enlightenment?

3. Read John 3:11-12. Why didn’t the Jews accept Jesus’ testimony? What is the “editorial we” in v. 11? How does Jn. 17:1-5 help us see Jesus’ authority?

4. Read Jn. 3:7, 12; Heb. 5:11-14; Mk. 4:28. How do these verses help us see how the new birth starts simple but grows in its sophistication?

5. Read John 3:13. What is it that Jesus is saying here? Which one of these three sub-points or cross references helps you to best comprehend what Jesus is getting at?

6. Read John 3:14-15. Now look at Num. 21:4-9. Explain the connection between these two passages. How does Gal. 3:13; Rom. 8:3; and 2 Cor. 5:21 help us see this more clearly?

7. Which one of the take home points did you appreciate the most? Why? How will this passage of Scripture enhance your understanding of the gospel and help you live in faithful obedience this week?

“How blessed this was: the brazen serpent was ‘lifted up’ so that those who were too weak to crawl up to the pole itself, and perhaps too far gone to even raise their voices in supplication could, nevertheless, lift up their eyes in simple faith in God’s promise and be healed.”

- A.W. Pink, *Exposition of the Gospel of John*