

Thursday Bible Study Groups

Lesson: New in Christ

Date: September 3, 2020

Read: John 3:1-21

Five Things:

1. *It was taught widely among the Jews at that time that since they descended from Abraham, they were automatically assured of heaven. In fact, some Rabbis taught that Abraham stood watch at the gate of hell, just to make sure that none of his descendants accidentally wandered in there.* (Guzik)

a. How did John the Baptist address this?

(Matthew 3:8-10)

b. How did Paul address this? (Romans 11:17-24)

c. How does Jesus address this? (John 3:18)

2. Nicodemus and others like him are looking for a new world not a new life.

a. How is what Jesus offers better than what the Jewish people are expecting? (Romans 3:21-22)

b. Eternal Life is uniquely God's idea not defined by us. (Romans 11:33-36)

3. *Nicodemus' reply may not have been out of ignorance, but from thinking that Jesus meant a moral reformation. His question may be "How can you teach an old dog new tricks?" One way or another, Nicodemus clearly did not understand Jesus or the truth about the new birth.* (Guzik) How can "old dogs" be taught?

a. According to v. 6-8

b. According to v.18-21

4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

a. What makes New Life possible? (v.15)

b. What's the human point of view? (John 3:6)

c. Describe what happens to the Believer? (v.17)

Did you know... *In Jesus' day, the common teaching among the Jewish people was that the first two aspects of the New Covenant had been fulfilled. They saw Israel gathered – at least in part – after the Babylonian exile. They saw strong spiritual movements like the Pharisees, which they believed fulfilled the promise of spiritual transformation. All they waited for was the reign of the Messiah... That's why Jesus' statement about the new birth was so strange to Nicodemus. He thought that the Jewish people already had it; they certainly weren't looking for it. They only looked for a triumphant Messiah.*

5. Describe your thoughts about the following commentaries on "New Creation."

a. *It is unfair for us to expect those who are not in Christ to live as if they were a new creation. However, it is not unfair to expect a changed life from people who say they are Christians. "I know no language, I believe there is none, that can express a greater or more thorough and more radical renewal, than that which is expressed in the term, 'a new creature.' "* (Spurgeon)

b. *Being a new creation doesn't mean that we are perfect. It means that we are changed and that we are being changed.* (Guzik)

Conclusion: HOW?! I believe I am a New Creation, yet I am also still me.

Read Romans 8:23-27 for some relief.

Review:

How do the following verses apply to the reading?

1. Romans 6:4

2. Ephesians 4:22-23

3. Galatians 2:20

3. Romans 12:2

4. Colossians 3:10

5. Romans 8:13

Explore: (focus verse) 2 Corinthians 5:17

Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new _____ . The old life is gone; a new _____ has begun!

Express: (write facts from the verse in your journal or on the back)

1. Why is there an exclamation point at the end?

2. Write down one specific area you KNOW you are NEW.

3. Can anyone become a new person without Christ? Why not? (Remember Gal. 5:17)

Experience: (make your facts points of personal prayer)

Ask God to fill me with the joy of Jesus, to help me think about him and what he has done the most so that he will seep out of my heart.