

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 01 Sept 2013 ..... John 1:1-18 ..... God Revealed
- 2) 08 Sept ..... John 1:19-51 ..... Jesus Identified
- 3) 15 Sept ..... John 2:1-25 ..... Authority Acknowledged
- 4) 22 Sept ..... **John 3:1-36 ..... Salvation Offered**
- 5) 29 Sept ..... John 4:1-38 ..... The Power to Give Life
- 6) 06 Oct ..... John 4:39-54 ..... The Power to Save
- 7) 13 Oct ..... John 5:1-47 ..... The Power to Heal
- 8) 20 Oct ..... John 6:1-71 ..... The Power to Meet Needs
- 9) 27 Oct ..... John 7:1-52 ..... Asking Questions About Jesus
- 10) 03 Nov ..... John 7:53-8:59 ..... Wondering About Judgment
- 11) 10 Nov ..... John 9:1-41 ..... Doubting Jesus' Power
- 12) 17 Nov ..... John 10:1-42 ..... Feeling Insecure?
- 13) 24 Nov ..... John 11:1-57 ..... Dealing with Death

INTRODUCTION

- Salvation is depicted as a very simple process – we make a decision to live for God – and God does the rest – He makes the sacrifice, He Saves, and He Preserves!
- The Christian Faith is the only religion where God does the work to save man. In all other religions man has to work to get saved

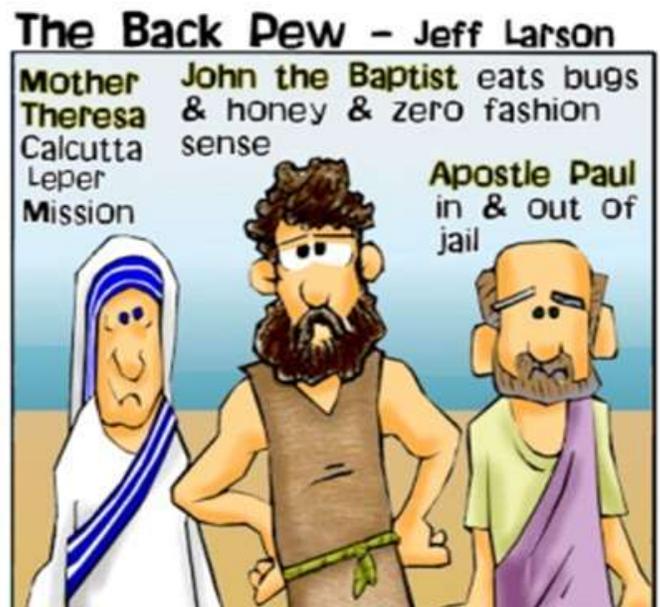
Passage	Comments
John 3:1-8	<p><b>Born Again – Say What?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v1. Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a “ruler of the Jews.” Pharisees were a legalistic and separatist group who strictly, but often hypocritically, kept the Law of Moses</li> <li>• vv3-6. Jesus used a metaphorical term “Born Again” to convey something spiritual must happen beyond our control. Like our physical birth (“born of water), which we had no control of, our spiritual birth is similar             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Yes, we must first want to be born again – i.e., to live for the Lord, but the spiritual process is like the wind – We can sense it, but we cannot grasp it</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3:9-16	<p><b>Nicodemus Should Have Known How To Get Saved</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv9-10. Nicodemus, who was very astute with the Torah, the Law of Moses, should have known better             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ What kept Nicodemus blind to the truth? Was it pride? Willful Ignorance? Satanic Deception? ___??</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v12. Jesus kept things simple for them             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Jesus basically said in Matthew 16:3 that if they could discern when it was going to rain, they can discern how to get saved – IT IS THAT EASY</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv13-14. Jesus called Himself “Son of Man,” which would clearly tell Nicodemus He was claiming to be deity ..... Daniel 7:13-14</li> <li>• vv15-16. “Believes in Him” conveys not a simple head knowledge, but a life-long commitment to obey - “Have eternal life” literally means “keep on having” an eternal life that is both present and continuing</li> <li>• Who is “WHO”? All? Everyone? Some? OT? NT? ___?</li> </ul>
Salvation in no other name...	<p><b>Dispensational vs. Timeless Salvation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some Christians believe in dispensational salvation – that is, there are different ways to get saved depending on when and where someone lived in history:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ I.e., NT and Millennial Saints are saved by grace</li> <li>♦ ...and OT and Tribulation Saints saved by works</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Truthfully, Old Testament saints looked forward to the cross by faith (Hebrews 11), and New Testament saints look back on the cross, again by faith</li> <li>• In both the Old and New Testaments “the just shall live by faith” ..... Habakkuk 2:4 and Romans 1:17 and “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved” ..... Joel 2:32 and Romans 10:13</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In brief, people come to God by only one means, through Christ, even if they lived in the pre-flood era, or during the Millennial reign of Christ – “Jesus said ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me’” (John 14:6); and Paul said “There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12)</li> <li>• Also, Peter sums up that “all the (OT) prophets bear witness that through His name everyone (OT &amp; NT) who believes in Him receives forgiveness.” ..Acts 10:43</li> <li>• No one has an excuse since God has instilled His awareness in nature and in the heart of every mentally-competent individual..... Ecc 3:11; Ps 19:1; Rom 1:20</li> </ul>
3:17-21	<p><b>Being Condemned</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v17. God prefers to save us and not condemn us</li> <li>• vv18-20. “He who does NOT believe has been judged already” and “men loved darkness” conveys their judgment is a done deal because of unwillingness to be saved – and not because God chose them for Hell</li> <li>• v21. “He who practices the truth” conveys willingness - BUT, BUT, BUT, didn’t Nicodemus, a Pharisee, practice the truth wholeheartedly? What’s the diff? - Pharisees lived by the Law to impress men, not God</li> </ul>
3:22-36	<p><b>Christ Must Increase and I Must Decrease</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v34. God gives the Holy Spirit without measure – IOW, we have ALL of the Holy Spirit once saved</li> <li>• Believing and Obeying are synonymous</li> </ul>

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Salvation is EASY. All we have to do is to willingly Believe/Obey the King of Kings – and He does the rest to save us and keep us.
- So why do people either wait or refuse to commit their lives to a loving God who is committed to act on their best interest?

**NEXT WEEK: John 4:1-38.** Kudus to the Samaritans who believed after hearing a testimony from a woman who was married 5x and was living with a boyfriend, and they also believed without seeing a single miracle or sign.



All these thought the price to be born again was worth it!