

I. In John 3:1-16, Jesus shocked the Pharisee theologian Nicodemus.

- A. That he wasn't going to see the Kingdom of God.
- B. That he needed something beyond the Torah to bring him into the Kingdom.
 - 1. A new kind of eternal life, God's own life, Holy Spirit life.
- C. That he had no way of acquiring that life on his own. He needed to trust Jesus. 15-16.

II. Paul was like Nicodemus. But he did receive new life at his conversion. Acts 9:17-19.

- A. *This new Holy Spirit life by faith in Jesus as the Messiah is what Paul is talking about in Rom.8*

III. Paul makes it clear that in human flesh there is no hope. 7:21-25

- A. The presence and persuasiveness of evil in me. 21
- B. The war being waged in the human heart. 23-24
- C. The coexistence of thankfulness and struggle? 25
- D. *Why is Paul thankful and joyful in the face of this struggle?*

IV. Rom.8:1-11. The Personal Presence of The Spirit. 4 Realities.

- A. Condemnation is off the table. 1
 - 1. Therefore? Yes, back to 7:5-6.
 - 2. Now and into the future, because we are IN CHRIST!
 - 3. There is no more condemnation left over after Jesus absorbed it all.
- B. Because the Holy Spirit has immersed us in God's own life. 2, 9.
 - 1. The life of the Spirit is what makes a Christian. 9
 - a) He is the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ.
 - b) He regenerates us. Titus. 3:5; 1 Cor.12:13
 - 2. The Spirit fulfills the requirement of the Law in a Christian
 - a) Fulfilled *in* us, not *by* us. Yet it happens as we cooperate with Him (Rom.12:1-2)
- C. Because God changed everything at the Cross 3-8
 - 1. He did what the Law could never do.
 - a) He absorbed the condemnation for sin.
 - b) He poured out His Spirit through Christ.
 - 2. Because the Law cannot produce integrity.
 - a) Compliance is not the same as integrity.
 - 3. Because the Dead cannot regenerate themselves. Eph.2:1-3. Our nature without grace...Zombie Life...
 - a) Hostile toward God.
 - b) Refuses to submit itself God's Law.
 - c) Is incapable of doing so.
 - (1) literally do not have the ability
 - (2) *Cannot* please God.
 - 4. So Christ took our blame and gave us His righteousness.
 - a) Our sin imputed to Christ. 2 Cor.5:21
 - b) Christ's righteousness imputed to us. Phil.3:9
- D. Which makes our physical resurrection inevitable. 10-11.
 - 1. The old model body is on its way out, but the Holy Spirit brings spiritual life. **Phil.3:20-21**
 - 2. Resurrection is a foregone conclusion for anyone with the Holy Spirit. **2 Cor. 4:16-5:10.**

V. Closing thoughts: 2 sobering and one hopeful.

A. Neutrality is a myth. Eph.2:1-3

1. We are either dead or alive spiritually. Either in darkness or light.
2. No “in-between” “mostly dead.” Or “partly alive.”

B. Flesh is useless. There is no self-salvation. John 6:63

1. Law/Religion cannot regenerate us.
2. Moralism cannot transform us.

C. But Joy is Real because the Holy Spirit is filling us in Christ. John 3:16

1. There is no reason to despair—the gospel is true and you can respond in faith today.