



John 3:14-21, 36  
“Jesus Saves”

***<sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. <sup>18</sup> “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”.... <sup>36</sup> He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”***

***“If we were asked to read to a dying man who did not know the gospel, we should probably select this chapter as the most suitable one for such an occasion; and what is good for dying men is good for us all, for that is what we are; and how soon we may be actually at the gates of death, none of us can tell.” (Spurgeon)***

1 We have heard the joyful sound:  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Spread the tidings all around:  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Bear the news to ev'ry land,  
Climb the steeps and cross the waves;  
Onward! 'tis our Lord's command;  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

2 Waft it on the rolling tide:  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Tell to sinners far and wide:  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Sing, ye islands of the sea;  
Echo back, ye ocean caves;  
Earth shall keep her jubilee:  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

3 Sing above the battle strife:  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
By His death and endless life:  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Sing it softly through the gloom,  
When the heart for mercy craves;  
Sing in triumph o'er the tomb:  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

4 Give the winds a mighty voice:  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Let the nations now rejoice:  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!  
Shout salvation full and free,  
Highest hills and deepest caves;  
This our song of victory:  
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

## ➤ The Confusion

***Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: Nicodemus was one of those impressed by Jesus' signs ([John 2:23](#)), and a member of the ruling Sanhedrin. He was religious (of the Pharisees), educated (Nicodemus is a Greek name), influential (a ruler), and earnest enough to come by night.***

### **Verse 4**

- ✓ **Principles- If you are confused in your theology go to Jesus.**

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.

**A great question- Have you come to the place in your spiritual life that if you were to die today, you know for certain that you would be in Heaven?**

## ➤ The Condemnation

### **Verses 18b-21**

- ✓ **Make sure you understand your situation.**

### III. Paving guy- show Bible- reason he doesn't read it often ????

**Ignoring the problem doesn't remove the problem.**

### III. Cancer diagnosis

#### ➤ The Cure

#### Verses 14-18a

#### Numbers 21:

**4 Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. 5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread." 6 So the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died. 7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. 8 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live." 9 So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.**

Serpents are often used as pictures of evil in the Bible ([Genesis 3:1-5](#) and [Revelation 12:9](#)). However, Moses' serpent in [Numbers 21](#) was made of bronze, and bronze is a metal associated with judgment in the Bible, because bronze is with fire, a picture of judgment.

So, a *bronze* serpent does speak of sin, but of sin judged. In the same way Jesus, who knew no sin became sin for us on the cross, and our sin was judged in Him. A bronze serpent is a picture of sin judged and dealt with.

**In addition, if the serpent lay horizontally on the vertical pole, it is easy to see how this also was a *visual* representation of the cross. However, many traditions show the serpent being wrapped around the pole, and this is the source for the ancient figure of healing and medicine — a serpent, wrapped around a pole.**

**I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. —[John 12:46](#)**

**([Ezek. 36:24-27](#)) It was surely this passage that Jesus had in mind, showing regeneration to be an Old Testament truth.**

<sup>24</sup> For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. <sup>25</sup> Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.

1 Peter 2:9-10- <sup>9</sup> But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup> who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Alan Carr - **So many people have this thing confused! They are seeking reformation. That is, they are trying to “turn over a new leaf” or “get a new lease on life”. What the world needs is not reformation, but regeneration! Every person under the sound of my voice needs regeneration and not reformation! You see, reformation is just whitewashing, but regeneration will wash you white (Rev 7:14+)! Reformation will put new clothes on a man, but regeneration will put a New Man in his clothes! What the world needs, what you need, and what I need is regeneration! You see, if you have been born only once, then friend you are going to die twice! But, if you have been born twice, you will never die, because death has been swallowed up in life (The Must of the New Birth)**

1 Corinthians 6 <sup>9</sup> Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, <sup>10</sup> Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

It was told of a missionary who visited a primitive hut and became nauseated by the filthy floor on which he had to sit. He suggested to his host that they scrub the dirty surface with soap and water, but the man replied, "the floor is just clay—packed down and dry. Add water and it turns to mud. The more you try to wash it, the worse the mess becomes!" Yes, the hut needed something besides an earthen floor. So it is with the human heart: it is hard and dirty, and nothing will help it. Man needs a new heart. He must be born again from above! Have you ever had a spiritual birthday? Have you been born again?

Isaiah 45:22- “Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I *am* God, and *there is no other*.

**Eternal life** also has the idea of a certain *quality* of life, of God’s kind of life. It is the kind of life enjoyed in eternity.

“The nature of the belief is implied in the illustration of Moses lifting up the serpent in the wilderness. Belief consists of accepting something, not doing something.” (Tenney)

**Of the 31,102 verses in the Bible, it may be the most popular single verse used in evangelism.**

“All over the New Testament this idea of *rebirth, re-creation* occurs.” (Barclay)

- **1 Peter speaks of being born anew by God’s great mercy ([1 Peter 1:3](#)).**
- **1 Peter speaks of being born again from an imperishable seed ([1 Peter 1:22-23](#)).**
- **James speaks of God bringing us forth by the word of truth ([James 1:18](#)).**
- **Titus speaks to us of the washing of regeneration ([Titus 3:5](#)).**
- **Romans speaks of dying with Jesus and rising anew ([Romans 6:1-11](#)).**
- **1 Corinthians speaks of new believers as new-born babes ([1 Corinthians 3:1-2](#)).**
- **2 Corinthians speaks of us being a new creation in Jesus ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)).**
- **Galatians says that in Jesus we are a new creation ([Galatians 6:15](#)).**
- **Ephesians says the new man is created after God in righteousness ([Ephesians 4:22-24](#)).**

### ***Elmer Towns - The Greatest Verse in the Bible -***

- *For God -- the greatest being*
- *so -- the greatest degree*
- *loved -- the greatest affection*
- *the world, -- the greatest object of love*
- *that He gave -- the greatest act*
- *His only -- the greatest treasure*
- *begotten -- the greatest relationship*
- *Son, -- the greatest gift*
- *that whoever -- the greatest company*
- *believes -- the greatest trust*
- *in Him -- the greatest object of faith*
- *should not perish, -- the greatest deliverance*
- *but have -- the greatest assurance*
- *eternal -- the greatest promise*
- *life. -- the greatest blessing*

***The two greatest days in a person’s life are the day he was born and the day he finds out why he was born. (And then is born again!)***

***I remember this, that everything looked new to me... the fields, the cattle, the trees. I was like a new man in a new world.***

***A transformed life is the greatest of all miracles. Every time a person is "born again" by repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ, the miracle of regeneration is performed. Billy Graham***

***Someone else, describing his new life in Christ, said, "Everything seems new—the Bible, my friends, my love for others, even Sunday itself. I have a new desire for spiritual things, a desire to know more about God and His church." George Sweeting***

***Becoming a Christian is not making a new start in life; it is receiving a new life to start with.***

- ✓ **Don't condemn the world but give the saving message.**

## **The Conclusion**

### **Verse 36**

- ✓ **Settle the question once for all!**

**Live out the truth of Romans 8:1 - *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.***

**1 John 5: <sup>11</sup> And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. <sup>12</sup> He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. <sup>13</sup> These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to believe* in the name of the Son of God.**

A few years ago when I was in Northfield, Massachusetts, to conduct evangelistic services, I visited **"Roundtop" where D. L. Moody is buried**. As I knelt in prayer, I recalled vividly Mr. Moody's eloquent words:

"Someday you will read in the papers that D. L. Moody is dead. Don't you believe a word of it. At that moment I shall have gone up higher; that is all; out of this old clay tenement, into a house that is immortal—a body that death cannot touch, that sin cannot taint; a body fashioned like unto His glorious body. I was born of the flesh in 1837. I was born of the Spirit in 1856. That which is born of the flesh may die. That which is born of the Spirit will live forever." Mr. Moody was right. And I expect to meet him one day in a glorified body that will never die. - George Sweeting

**MacArthur on wrath of God abides - The idea here is not that God will one day condemn sinners for their disobedient unbelief; they are already in a state of condemnation (3:18; 2 Peter 2:9) from which only saving faith in Jesus Christ can deliver them. (See John Commentary)**

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