

Now we're in the third chapter of John, the first eleven verses. Jesus has told Nicodemus that he must be born again. Nicodemus misunderstands what Jesus has said to him. Nicodemus has an age-long problem. He really believed that he already was the son of God. Because he was a Jew, he believed that he WAS the son of God. He believed that ~~xx~~ he already was in the Kingdom; he did not believe he needed a New Birth.

Now there are many who believe this. They believe if they come up in a certain family, grow ~~ix~~ up in the church, they don't need a New Birth. But that is not true. And that's the reason we have this teaching in the Word of God.

Now when Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again, Nicodemus immediately thought of a physical birth. And he said 'how is it possible for me to enter into my mother's womb a second time and be born.' And then Jesus explained to him that this was a spiritual change. Not a physical change. And in V. 5 (read) the water birth is the first birth. A child is enveloped in water and that water is bursted as people know, doctors know, most of us know, at the time of birth.

And Nicodemus was depending upon this water birth. But Jesus said 'Nicodemus, you've got to have another birth beyond this physical water birth. You've got to have a birth of the HS, whereby the Life of God comes into you and you become - not a perfect man - but you become a new person. YOU receive Eternal Life'. And Nicodemus is mystified.

He keeps asking how can this be. And we take up at this point today, in V.12(read); what are the earthly things Jesus is referring to? He is referring to regeneration, which is of heavenly origin, but it takes place upon

the earth. He says 'I have told you about the New Birth. I have illustrated it by the wind.' He says 'if you do not understand this; how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?'

What's the heavenly things He's about to tell him of? He's about to tell him about the plan of redemption. He's about to tell him how God sent His Son into the world in order to make the New Birth possible. You see, there is no New Birth apart from Christ's Cross. None whatsoever! We're not Born Again any other way, except through the sacrifice of Jesus, and His resurrection from the dead.

Now in V. 13, we are reminded that no man can discover these Truths, for himself. That this is something that God has brought down to man and so, He makes the statement in V. 13(read) 'no man has ascended up to heaven'. Now there are people who teach 'soul-sleep' - they say there is no life between physical death and the resurrection and this is their Scrip. They say, well Jesus said that no man hath ascended up to heaven.

So they say David's not in heaven and the thief that went to Paradise, he's not in heaven because Jesus said no man hath ascended into Heaven. It's amazing how accurate the Scrip. is 'no man has ascended into heaven' but the Bible speaks of people entering into heaven. Jesus didn't say 'no man has entered into heaven'. He said 'no man has ascended into heaven'. Heb. 11:6(read) no, it Heb. 11:5 says Enoch was translated to heaven. It does not say he ascended into heaven.

II Kings 2:11 (read) Elijah was 'taken up' into heaven. Doesn't say he ascended into heaven. I Thess. 4:17 (read) will be 'caught up' into Heaven but nowhere does the Bible ever say that anyone has ascended into heaven. Jesus, and

He alone, actually ascended by His own power into heaven. Back to V.13: 'but (or EXCEPT) he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven'. And so what Jesus is saying is that there is a man who was in heaven who has come to this earth and He was in heaven when God planned His plan of redemption, whereby man could be Born Again and we have His word.

This is what's so exciting about our God. God has come to this earth to give us the message. I have heard people say well, no one has ever gone into death and come back to tell us what it's like. They're mistaken. JC has gone into death and JC was in heaven, in Eternity, when the Father ~~was~~ planned the Plan of Salvation and this verse says 'even the Son of man which is in heaven'.

Well, He's on earth when He's speaking that. Here's the great miracle of Deity. Jesus, though He was speaking to Nicodemus in the flesh, says 'I'm in Heaven'. And He is. JC is right here this morning; He's also in Heaven. He's omnipresent. But it took Jesus, Himself, to come down; to bring this to man. Man could never discover it of himself.

Now Jesus has used an illustration of the wind and He has spoken so simply that if Nicodemus's heart had been open, he would have already received this and already been Born Again. Jesus was a simple teacher. I believe that a true man of God will always be simple. I'm not impressed when anyone tries to complicate the Bible. That is NOT the sign of the HS.

Jesus was utterly simple. But He knew that He had failed to convince Nicodemus of what the New Birth was and so He turns to the Scrip. - the Hebrew Scrip. Because, after all, Nicodemus was a Pharisee and he knew the O.T. And so, In V.14, He refers him to an O.T. Scrip.

V.14(read) we read an account of this in the 21st Chapter of Numbers. Also V.15.

What a text this is. Jesus says 'now I'm trying to get through to you how you're born again'. He says the best way I can describe it to you, nicodemus, is you remember when Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, you've read Numbers 21, Nicodemus. You remember that that serpent was lifted up and God said 'look at that serpent' and you will live.

Now He says 'God has sent His only Son and He has lifted Him up on a cross. That if you would believe in Him, you should not perish (what does that mean?). It means to be eternally lost. It does not mean to be stamped out. It means - in plain language, you don't have to go to hell. 'Shall not perish but have eternal life'. Now this is the first time we've encountered this word 'eternal life' in the third chapter. Jesus has been talking about the New Birth, He's been talking about the birth of the Spirit, but He hasn't mentioned eternal life.

What's the difference? None. None whatsoever. When you are born again, you become the recipient of Eternal Life. You receive Life from above; Life from Eternity. Here is one of the great words in the Bible - is Eternal Life - 'zoa-^{Broas}eoneus'. Not physical life - there's another word for physical life 'deos' - not deos life but zoa eoneus, which literally means 'life of the ages'. Life of Eternity.

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When you're born again, the greatest miracle that ever happens to mankind happens. You're not just reformed. You're not just made a little better. But you actually receive the Life of God in your life until you have God's Life, even though you're in the world. And Eternal Life is a life that goes on and on. It cannot be stopped by death or interfered with by death, at all.

When death comes, it does not affect the Eternal Life. You go right on living.

When does that begin? Now many people say well, that begins at the judgment. When I'm approved and when I pass. NO, as we're gonna see in the last verse. It begins the moment you are born again. It begins the moment you really trust Jesus with ALL your heart. But now, it's MORE than never-ending life. It does not end because it's the Life of God. You can't kill it.

You can kill the body but you can't kill Eternal Life. Every one of us will be living somewhere a hundred years from today. But if we have Eternal Life, we'll be living with God. You can't kill Eternal Life. But it means MORE than just quantity, or age-long. It means the Life of Eternity brought to us in JC. That's what it MEANS!

Even now, we have God's Life; we have the Life of Heaven before we ~~xx~~ ever get to Heaven. Everybody in this world, if he knew the Truth, would want to be Born AGain. Everybody! The lost man out here deep in sin, that's what he wants the church who's just putting on a front, never had a real change of heart, that church member wants to be born again, if he knew. There's just nothing like it.

Because it IS the Gift of Eternal Life for those who look to Jesus and Him alone, even as the Isralites looked to the serpent in the wilderness. YOU say well, why was that serpent hung up there? Why was that serpent there? Well, the serpent was an emblem of sin or the curse of sin. Sin entered in to the world, through the serpent, according to Gen. 3.

But it ALL looked forward to Jesus, who became a curse for us and took our sins in order that we might be forgiven in order that we might have the great Gift of Eternal Life. But now how can this come to pass? How can we as poor sinners, come in to possession of this wonderful Gift of Eternal Life. HOW can we? Because of John 3:16.

V.16(read) notice it says 'for' - that ties it back to V.15. Why is it true that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life'? Because of John 3:16 - 'for GOD...' Here's the basis of Eternal Life in the only way it can be. Here's the basis of the New Birth. FOR GOD to loved the world. Now the Jews didn't believe that. They didn't believe that God loved the whole world.

They believed that ~~xxx~~ He loved them but they didn't believe that He loved the whole world. This was radical. ~~xxx~~ 'For God so sloved the World'. He loved the world so dearly - the whole world - 'that He gave' (what does that mean when it says He gave?) GAVE unto death. Gave Him as a Babe at Bethlehem; but in this text, primarily, He gave Him unto death on the cross. This is the same thing that Paul means in Rom. 8:32 when he says 'He spared not'.

JOhns 'gave' is Pauls 'spared not'. He Gave His only begotten Son that whosoever (you can write YOUR name there) there's nothing like this. 'Believeth in HIM should not perish BUT have everlasting (you say, well, it's Eternal up there in V. 15. There it's Eternal life and here's it's Everlasting - I don't know WHY - it's the SAME word in the Greek). Don't know why the KJ people would translate it that way. It's everlasting but Eternal is better because it's the life of Eternity that enters our live, when we come to Christ.

We don't hear a lot of sermons on John 3:16. People think it's too simple. But it's not simple at all. It's tremendous. We wought to hear more messages on it. You have everybody's text - John 3:16 - is called 'everybody's text' if you know a verse of Scrip. you know John 3:16. Do you realize that if all the Bible were lost and we just had only John 3:16, we'd have enough Gospel in John 3:16 to save the world?

5M One man heard a sermon on John 3:16 and he was born again. He received Jesus,

as his saviour and he went out and won fifty people to Christ before he learned there was ~~xxxx~~ any other Bible. Do you realize that if you know Christ and you just have John 3:16, you can win many people to Christ. You've got EVERYTHING in John 3:16. 'For God so loved the World (that's the CAUSE of the Gospel) Why? Why the New Birth? Why? Because we're good? No.

① Because of God's Love. God So Loved this World - you've got the CAUSE. And then you've got the COST - 'that He gave'. Did it cost God anything? It cost Him everything. Don't ever forget that. It didn't cost Him a thing to make us or to make this ~~xxx~~ world. He just spoke the Word and it came into existence. But when it came to giving us a New Birth, He had to send Heaven's best and He paid for our souls in the coin of His own precious blood.

Is that costly? How would you like to offer your son? We can never, never describe the costliness of Eternal Life, and of the New Birth. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.." ③ but notice the CONDITION: 'that whosoever believeth'. Isn't that wonderful? Now what if the text had said 'that whosoever can read the Bible - there's be many people in Ft. Smith who could never have Eternal Life.

Suppose it said 'everybody who can run around the block' - there are a lot of people in Ft. Smith who can't even run around a block. Suppose it had said 'someone who's perfect - nobody would qualify'. There's not any condition here that cannot be met by any man who'll open his heart. That's what's so wonderful about it. The CONDITION is Believe. You were made to believe. If you don't believe, today, it's because the devil has tampered with your life. You were made to believe.

You were made to believe God. You were made to believe. To believe in JC.

For God so loved the world - that's the CAUSE; that He gave His only begotten Son - that's the COST; that whosoever believeth in Him - that's the CONDITION; you see? There's no excuse. ~~Fix~~ It's utterly, utterly simple. ⁽⁴⁾ And then you've got the CONSEQUENCES. You've got a negative consequence: 'should not perish'. Isn't that wonderful? I'm not worried about going to hell. You're not either, if your a Xtn.

I've seen the time in my life that I was worried. But I'm not worried. You need not worry about going to hell. Why? Because Jesus has took your judgment and taken your hell and when you come to Him, you don't have to worry. That's the negative.

But you see, the Bible stresses the POSITIVE: Eternal Life. I've got Eternal Life. If you don't have anything and you've got Eternal Life, you're richer than ^{the} billionnaires of the world. You're utterly RICH, if you have Eternal Life. You can't buy it; you can't understand it by education; you can't be religious enough ~~to~~ to earn it but Christ has BROUGHT it, if we will receive it. It's God's great Gift and that's what Jesus is trying to say to Bro. Nicodemus.

Did he ever believe this? I believe he did. I believe he did. I believe he got his lesson, because in the 19th chapter of John, as we'll see later, he comes up and asks for the body of Jesus. I believe that Nicodemus really was born again. I believe that one of the joys we'll have when we get to Heaven is talking to Bro. Nicodemus. I can hardly wait. To ask him some questions, you know. It's one thing I'm interested in in going to Heaven is talking to some of these people we study about in the Bible, and we don't know everything about them.

I believe he'll be there. Because I believe God finally go through to him.

V.17(read) first part: isn't that wonderful? Now the Jews said 'the Messiah would condemn everyone except them'. JC did not come in to this world to condemn one person. Now ^{turned down} one day He ~~ixx~~ will be judge but that will be when man has absolutely His ~~grxxx~~ grace and His mercy. But today, He's not judging anyone. He's calling you to Himself.

He's wooing you by His love. Jesus didn't come into this world to condemn; to judge it. Last part of verse: now that's my message. I don't spend my time in the pulpit condemning people. YOu'll never hear me do it. And you'll never hear ~~anybody~~ any Gospel preached doing that. That's not my place. My place is show people the WONDERS of the New Birth and of the wonderful Life of God.

Some people have the wrong idea of Xtn-ity. They feel if they go to church, that the pastor is gonna really rap them on the head and condemn and send them to hell. That's ~~not~~ the Gospel. The Gospel is that there's a better way. That Jesus has come; you can be a new man. You can be forgiven. You can have a power and purpose in your life you never knew.

V.18(read) Him (that's Jesus) 'is not condemned' (now it doesn't say ~~that~~ he that believeth), don't be deceived. Saving Faith always has an object ~~anfg~~ and that object is JC. You're not saved/just by believing. You're saved by believing ONLY in Jesus. There are many people who believe. They believe in their church; they believe in their baptism; they believe in their religious works, but none of that saves.

5M When I was a student in Duke Univ. we had an outstanding religious speaker come ~~make~~ and he spoke for five days on 'Belief'. He never told us what to believe. And on the last day, we asked him the question; we said 'Dr. ^{DEEP} Dept, you've been telling us all week to believe but you haven't told us what to believe.' And

you know what that fellow said? He said 'just believe that the Universe is friendly'. Can you imagine? Listen, believing the Universe is friendly is not gonna save you. FAITH doesn't save anyway. It is but the hand that reaches UP to the Saviour. Jesus is the Saviour; Faith simply connects us with Jesus.

V.18(read); first part: 'is not judged'. Whyaren't we judged? Because our sins are judged in Jesus. When you come to Jesus Christ, the sins you have committed are judged on Him. He took them at calvary. And God will not judge the second time. --You don't have to bear the judgment. But notice, it says 'he that believeth not is condemned already'. You say 'well, do you mean right now?' That's what the Bible says. You receive Eternal Life right now; you know it. You're also condemned right now. You don't have to wait.

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You don't have to wait. What does a man have to do to be lost? A little pamphlet was published on this and on the outside, the question was 'What Must I do to Be Lost?' And you opened the pamphlet, there was nothing in the pamphlet. Nothing. You don't have to do a thing to be lost. If a man failes to believe on JC, he's lost. Because he - look at V.18 last part of the sentence: 'he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.'.

Now that's the only reason anybocy is ever lost. YOU say, well, I thought a man was lost because he committed adultery. No. Bible ~~does~~n't teach that. I ~~thoug~~x thought he was lost because he was a drunkard. No. He can be forgiven of every bit of this. He is lost because he rejects the only Saviour. And satan wants you to get your mind on your sin and your problem rather than on Jesus, because as long as he gets you tied up with your sin and your problem and get you trying to work it out, you can't work it out. God ~~calls~~ you to look at Jesus. To come to Jesus in repentence and trust. And that will take care

that will take care of the problem. To send a man to hell because he commits a sin - say - drinks or curses or robs a bank, would be like sending a boy to the penitentiary who stole a loaf of bread.

Our God is not ~~xxxxxxx~~ that kind of God. But you see, when man rejects Jesus, His Son, who came and shed His blood and took his sin and took his hell, then man deserves what he got. Because he has refused God's answer to his sin/

V.19(read)'condemnation' that's the word 'judgment'. What is the judgment? Read the next part of this verse. Now here is the judgment. How are we going to be judged? By the number of sins we've committed? No. It's by the light we've rejected. God doesn't hold you responsible for anything except the Light, which is shown in your path.

V. 19 - A Big "L."

But we're responsible for every bit of Light that we've had and when the Light shines and we turn into darkness and actually LOVE that darkness, then we have WILLFULLY turned against the shining Light of God's Truth and of God's Way. And God cannot overlook that. He cannot have mercy. Jesus said, in His day, that the heathen cities that have never heard the Gospel would rise up in the judgment against Capernaum and cities where He had preached because He says that you have the Light. You rejected it.

You know where the greatest condemnation is? It's on the heart of that person who saw the Light. Some teacher, some preacher, some friend who cared, shared the Light - or God got through to them - and they still went against it. It's absolutely imperative we not just share God's Word, but that we WALK in that Light. And when we do, God will give us more Light. If we fail to do it, after a while, we don't hear anything. Our minds are closed to it.

If we do not receive the Light and act upon it, we die in the soul. God won't

show us any more Light but if we act upon the Light, He'll lead us to more and more Light. It's a serious thing to hear the Light because that makes us immediately responsible for obeying the Light.

This nation is more responsible than any nation under the sun and this nation today, is more responsible for the Light of the New Birth than any nation in history and even in it's history because from the White House of the U.S., we have a president who says 'I've been born again'. We have the intellectuals ~~saying~~ saying 'I've been born again'. No longer can people say this is a group of lunatics and idiots out there.

God has brought it to its highest level, to confront people with the Light.

V.20(read) - now this explains to you why some people won't get in a Bible Study. This immediately explains why some people won't come to church and why some people won't come to 'certain' churches, anyway. But choose their church. There are some people who will not go where the Gospel is being preached. It exposes them.

3M Have you ever gone in a dark room and turned the light on and just see the bugs scram? That's the illustration. They RUN from the Light. There are some people who run from the Light. They don't want to be in a Bible Study. They don't want to be in this church. They don't want to get around a preacher. They don't want to come where there's any Light. Why? Because their hearts are exposed. They don't want it.

BUT, V.21(read) I've been so thrilled and I see in this class as I've never seen it in any ministry that I've ever had - people coming from far and wide to the Light. Driving distances. We have people here this morning who have

driven way out of town to come here to the Light. But we have some other people who would do ANYTHING except come. Why? Because their lives would be exposed.

But when we want to do right, we want to go where the Light is. And if we want to do right, the plainer the preacher, the plainer the preaching, the stronger the preaching, the better we like it. We say 'amen'. We just 'sic 'em on' when the preacher preaches. But not everybody. If ~~we~~ we're in evil, we do evil, then we hate the Light. But he that doeth Truth (notice, it doesn't say 'just believe it' - but DOETH IT (Truth) cometh to the Light that his deeds might be made manifest that they are wrought in God'.

These are the words of Jesus.

V.22(read) now V. - a Chap. 4: v.2 says 'tho Jesus Himself baptized not, but His disciples'. That is, His disciples baptized. Looks like this is a contradiction. John 4:2 says no one baptized but His disciples. Well, that's true

Jesus baptized but He baptized through His disciples. AND, of course, that WAS PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE and this language is not trying to deceive anyone. Like tonight, in our church, I may not baptize. And yet, I'm the pastor of the church. Maybe my assistant will baptize - Tom Newton. But that will be me baptizing through him because I've authorized him to baptize.

I'm the pastor of the church. Jesus Himself, did not baptize, but He authorized His disciples and they were under His authority and therefore, the baptism was through Him.

V.23(read) now here's an interesting thing. YOU read Matthew's Gospel, (which

we are studying in the evening worship now at 7 and also at 7 on Wednesday nights. By the way, we're going through the N.T. We invite you to join us, if you will) you would get the impression that Jesus did not begin His ministry until John was in prison and ceased his ministry. That's not technically true.

They overlapped. John kept on baptizing a little and kinda phased his ministry out at ~~the~~ the same time that Jesus was beginning His ministry. This is brought out by John. That's the reason we have John. John gives us information we don't get in Matthew, Mark and Luke. And here it is.

John was in the North - that's where AEnon near to Salim. He had moved from the populated area of Judea a little North. Why did he move up there? To kinda get out of the limelight and to give Jesus the best baptisimal area and most of the people. He's moving off the scene. But he's not completely off the scene. 'Because there was much water there'.

Well, this is a pretty good evidence that you need water when you baptize. And you do. You do. Because baptism requires an immersion. That's what the word means, That ~~was~~ much water there. There was seven springs at AEnon. Plenty of water there. They were baptizing in the Jordan. They go up to AEnon.

7 Springs at AEnon

'And they came and were baptized'. V.24(read). See, John is not yet in prison. Though if you read Matthew, you might think that he was.

V.25(read) not 'Jews' really it's A Jew. It's singular. They were really questioning the relative merit of Jesus ^{and} in John's baptism is ~~the~~ what that purifying was about.

V.26(read) 'Rabbi' - notice they call him Rabbi. Nicodemus called Jesus 'Rabbi'

it means 'teacher'. They came unto John and they said 'teacher, he that was with thee beyond Jordan,,,,,' Now here's a man whos trying to play JOhn and Jesus against each other. A disciple of John and he says 'listen, master, you know that man you baptized (he didn't call Him by His name - he's talking about Jesus) well, listen, you're ahead of Him. He's your disciple, because, after all, ~~xxx~~ you baptized Him.

'Now He's got a crowd of folks over yonder and He's baptizing more people than you are baptizing. This just isn't right. I don't like this.' You know what John ~~xxxxx~~ said? Look at

V.27 (read) that's one of the greatest statements in this world. Bill Bennett is over here preaching the Gospel and people are being saved and the S.S.'s growing and the man down the street here is preaching the Gospel and people are being saved in the church and S.S.'s growing - the blessing is ALL from Heaven. Nobody has any thing except it be given from Heaven. Don't you worry. If there isa blessing upon a work, it's because it came from Heaven and not from man.

Let us not be jealous of churches. I tell you we'll know when revival when the church down the street can rejoice because the church up the street is reaching more people and having more people saved than it is. THAT'll be the sign and it ought to be that way. We ought not compare ourselves to anybody else. God's blessing is upon my ministry; it's upon other peoples ministry - let us not be jealous; let us not worry about it. It's in the hands of God, John says.

Don't you worry about that. But you see what he's trying to do? He's trying to do what we try to do too often. Trying to get the churches fighting each other; preachers fighting each other. God has told me to call the people/to-^{of God}gether in these days. God has laid it upon my heart to emphasize our ONENESS

in Jesus - not our differences. To bring ~~back~~ To MethoPalian CongroPresbyGracion-
alists together. To hear the Word of the Lord. Not to fight others. But to
appreciate what they are doing. And God is the one that will give the blessing
~~and~~ and if the blessing is withdrawn, that's God.

V.28(read) John had already told them that. He said 'I'm not the Messiah. But
I just came a few months before Him to prepare the way'.

V.29 is a beautiful verse (read) what in the world is he saying? 'He that hath
the bride is the bridegroom'- who is the bride? The people of God. The church.
Who is the bridegroom? Jesus. John is saying 'listen, the church - the people
of God - they don't belong to me - they belong to Jesus'.

'But the friend of the bridegroom...' Who's the friend of the bridegroom?
That's John, the Baptist. That's the Groomsman. That's the best man. You see,
in a Jewish wedding, there was a Groomsman or Bestman, a friend of hte bride-
groom, who ~~pre~~ prepared for the wedding and brought the Bride and the bride-
groom together. But once he had done this, he just stood off and rejoiced as
he saw the Bride, joined to the bridegroom.

In Jewish wedding, the Best man brought the Bride + Bridegroom together. Once he
He doesn't interfere after this. His job is simply to prepare for their union

~~XX~~ and to prepare for that wedding and then to move off the scene. John says 'I
am not anything but the bestman. All in the world I've been is the groomsman.
I've brought JC and His people together and I've heard them rejoicing. I've
heard ~~their~~ voiced; I've heard them singing; I've heard them praising God and,
he says 'far be it from me to get in there and to try to rival Jesus. After
all, It's His Bride. It's His Bride and I'm just rejoicing. I'm just filled
with Holy Joy'. That's what he's saying.

*had done this
he stepped aside
& rejoiced.*

V.30(read) 'He must increase' and in the context, 'He must increase ^{in the heart of} ~~(with the~~ Bride'. Jesus must increase with the Bride, but I must decrease. Now here is the greatest sign of humility and a desire to honor the Lord. John, the Baptist, could have moved right in here and taken over. It takes a great man to move out and give another man his place.

John had no thought of exalting John. Anybody who exalts himself in the work of the Lord is doomed to failure. It will not stand. It will not. We must ever be in the background. Jesus must ever be in the forefront. You know the worst compliment that could ever come to me? What a great sermon you preached. You know the GREATEST compliment? What a great Christ you proclaimed.

If people are just talking about ME - they've missed the point. Jesus must be foremost. He must ALWAYS be out there in front. That's what John is saying here.

V.31(read) the first part refers to Jesus (He that cometh from above is above all) that's Jesus. He that is of the earth is earthly. We can never stress that too much.

V. 32(read) now that's ^{hyperbole} (hiperply.) And you have that in Scrip. The Biblical writers will state themselves in what we call 'hiperply'. It doesn't mean that literally no one ever received Him. There were people who did receive Him. But what it's saying is; that the great masses of people did not receive Him.

V.33(read) notice this speaks of those who HAVE received Him. 'He that hath received His testimony (that is, the testimony of Jesus) hath set his seal (that is another way of saying 'has certified) that God is true.' In other words,

people who have believed Jesus and listen to His Word, have said 'Jesus is God and has brought the message of God to man'. That's what that means.

V.34(read) 'whom God hath sent (that's Jesus). The latter part of the verse: now that's not said of any human being in the world. Can a man be filled with the HS? He CERTAINLY can. The Bible teaches that. That's an experience. BUT no one has ever been filled by the HS like Jesus. I been filled with the Spirit and preached in the anointing, many, many times, but there have been time in my life that I was not in that fulness and not in that anointing.

But there was never one time, in the life of Jesus, that He was not FILLED and totally anointed to do His ministry. God gave Him the H.S. without measure.

V.35(read) and that's true. He's God's plenty-potentialary - EVERYTHING'S been given into the hands of Jesus - even the Judgment, ultimately, will be in the hands of Jesus.

He concludes on V.36 which is one of the greatest verses in the Bible, which I want to conclude on. V.36(read) it's a summation of everything that's been said in chapter 3. We'd say 'he WHO believeth (that's PRESENT tense) or 'he who believes on the Son has everlasting (that's the word Eternal) has (right now) eternal life.' You know people have been so mis-instructed and this is such a great Truth that often, I show them this passage and they profess JC and I say 'now read this and what does it say?' And though they've made a GENUINE decision they'll say 'well, that means I'm going to have Eternal Life in in Heaven'.

Doesn't say that at all. Now that's certainly true but it says something far greater for us today. It says 'he who believes on the Son HAS (right now) Eternal Life. That's what it means to be born again. Is to HAVE the Life of

God - Eternal Life.

It goes on to say, though, it gives you the converse of this - the opposite....
'he who believes NOT the Son shall not see Life'. Is there any way to have Life? Is there any way - apart from Jesus? Not according to the Bible. We have many, many people saying ~~thxxx~~ there are many ways to God. That's not what Jesus said. Jesus said 'ye who believe has (right now) but he who believes NOT shall not see Life BUT the wrath of God abideth (what tense is that?)'

It doesn't say 'shall abide' - it says 'the wrath of God abideth (right now)'. You receive Eternal Life right now - or you don't have Eternal Life now. If you don't have Eternal Life through faith in Jesus, then the wrath of God abideth (or abides) on you right now. That is, it's settled on you. What does that mean? You say, well, I didn't hink the judgment was going to come until after we died. You're mistaken.

There will be a judgment, indeed, in the life to come, but the judgment begins HERE, just like Eternal Life begins here. Now, many people misunderstand and you live in a nation today, where the wrath of God has settled on hundreds and thousands of people. They've rejected Christ; they have the Light; they've rejected it and the wrath of God is upon their heads.

Many people don't understand this. They say 'well, I'm^{getting on} pretty good. I have a pretty good job; I get a raise every year; I'm able to support my family; live in a pretty good house. God hasn't taken my baby.' They misunderstand. You see, the wrath of God, in the life of an unbeliever, is in the very nature of his rebellion.

For instance, say here's a man who lives immorally. God may not take his child.

He may get a raise every year. His business may flourish. But the wrath of God is in his heart. He's filled with guilt. He's filled with emptiness. He's filled with restlessness. His life is ruined because he's not right with God and the blessing of God is not on his life in it's truest sense.

All he has is an external blessing. It rains on the just and on the unjust. But, that wrath is upon him. And all the restlessness today - that's the wrath of God. Why all the heartaches in our land today? The wrath of God. God settling His wrath upon people who have the Light, and would not turn to Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

Now I want to end like this: Jesus said 'the way you receive Eternal Life is looking - just as the Israelites looked at the serpent - he said 'Look' to Jesus. Now our tendency is to try to lift our problems. God said 'look at the serpent' He didn't say 'manufacture some ointment to heal your wound'. Man's always trying to manufacture a way to solve his problems. He did not say to 'fight the serpent'.

He did not say to 'pray to Moses'. He did not say to 'make an offering to the serpent on the pole'. And He did not say to 'look at your wounds'. Now what many people are doing today - I hope not you - but listen, many people are looking at their wounds. They're looking at their sins, their sorrows, they're looking at their husbands, their wives - they are just SICK because they've looked at themselves. Looked at their problems until they're sick.

And the psychiatrist have analysed them and they've been analysed -- that is NOT the way to Eternal Life and the way to a victorious Xtn Life. But it is to look beyond ourselves and our sins and look to Jesus. The Xtn Life is not lifting but it's looking. You're saved by LOOKING. Spurgeon tried, for years,

and did not understand. And then he heard a humble layman preach on the text which says 'Look Unto Me and be Ye Saved, All the Ends of the Earth'.

And that layman said 'you don't have to be wealthy to look; you don't even have to lift your little finger to look; don't have to go to college to look; LOOK. LOOK. And Spurgeon LOOKED and became the greatest preacher of the 19th century.

I'm convinced today that we need to LOOK. I'm convinced today, that if you're a Xtn., you need to LOOK. You need to LOOK OFF from your problems and LOOK unto Jesus. And when you do that, Jesus Christ will de EXACTLY what He says that He will do. That's faith; that's repentance' that's commitment.

Have You LOOKED?

End of Tape