

The Depravity of People.

Text John 3:1 – 2

Introduction – In this world we live in we have hundreds of religions. We have Christians, Buddhist, Hinduism, Islam, and etc, etc, etc. However in Christianity alone we have hundreds of different kinds, Baptist, Catholicism, Lutherans, Pentecostalism, and etc, etc, etc. The religionist of the world believes in different gods, while the religionist in the Christianity believe in one God and one Saviour, but they differ on how one is saved and the biblical interpretation of salvation. **There is only one truth** and every Christian must find that truth, however that truth can only be found in redeemed through Christ Jesus.

The most do not believe in depravity however God described the depravity of mankind throughout His word. The word depraved means one is corrupted with wickedness, and wickedness is their life, their thinking and doing in life can only be wicked. This is because they were born sinners because of their parents were sinners, because of their parents all the way back to Adam and Eve were sinners. **1 Corinthians 15:21 - 22** "For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. (22.) For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." God said that we are "shapen" and "conceived" in iniquity - **Psalms 51:5** "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." The Psalmist declares that we are born sinners - **Psalms 58:3** "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies." Job asked an especially important question concerning depravity in **Job 15:14 - 16** "What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous? (15.) Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight. (16.) How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water?" God can't even trust His own saints and angels, **Job 4:17 - 18** "Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his maker? (16) Behold, he put no trust in his servants; and his angels he charged with folly:" It is evident that people are born depraved or at enmity with God and because of this they can never please God - **Romans 8:5 - 8** "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. (6.) For to be carnally

minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. (7.) Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. (8.) So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." This statement "for it is not subject to the law of God" means – the carnal mind will not submit itself to God. – one may believe in God, the laws of God, and even that Christ Jesus is Gods Son and the Saviour of mankind, but their inner enmity will not allow them to submit to God. Man is held by a force that is beyond them and he is called Satan.

A. Who is Nicodemus?

- 1) We know he was a ruler of the Jews. "a ruler of the Jews" verse 1
- 2) Being a ruler made him a very intelligent man but he was also a member of the Sanhedrin, which was the final court for the interpretation and enforcement of the Jewish law. Which made him a servant of God and a hater of Christ.
- 3) We find Saul of Tarsus (or Paul) in the same fashion. **Philippians 3:3 - 7** "For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. (4.) Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: (5.) Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; (6.) Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. (7.) But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ."
- 4) However both of these powerful and important men in the Jewish ranks turned Christian, but how?

B. Nicodemus came to Jesus but only by night. "The same came to Jesus by night" verse 2

- 1) Why by night?
- 2) Nicodemus said "Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God" verse 2 The word "we" would make us believe he came as a representing the Sanhedrin or the Jewish people. But he was not, it was personal.
- 3) By calling Jesus "Rabbi" he was actually putting Jesus on his level as a

Jewish leader not as God.

4) What caused this Jewish leader to betray his people and to seek Jesus?

C. Nicodemus questions show His depravity.

- 1) "How can a man be born when he is old" v. 4
- 2) "can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born" v. 4
- 3) "How can these things be?" v. 9
- 4) Did Nicodemus come to Jesus to learn or to interrogate?
- 5) God said through Paul in **1 Corinthians 2:14** "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." - The words "spiritually discerned" the inability to "separate out so as to investigate" If they cannot "separate out" then how can they ever understand?
- 6) Nicodemus showed how "spiritually discerned" he was, and without the light of the Holy Spirit he would have died that spiritually ignorant.
- 7) People do not just get it, a light is not just turned on in them, it is all accomplished by the Holy Spirit.

D. Jesus knew Nicodemus real condition; He also knew Nicodemus was a chosen vessel of God, and that the Father had given him to Him. **John 2:25** "And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man."

- 1) Jesus witnessed to him the truth about salvation. Verse 3 "...Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." – born again means "to beget from above." – "beget" means – to be born – meaning one must be born from God.
- 2) More on being born again – one verb of the word means - to give birth to, to bring forth – meaning - he is not able to be do it himself.
- 3) Nicodemus like all other depraved souls today simply do not understand.
They will never be born again unless the Holy Spirit delivers the new birth.

E. Three things that seal the depravity of man.

- 1) God has declared that men as a whole are spiritually dead.
 - a) **Ephesians 2:1** "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;" The word dead here means - a corpse – the

question is can a corpse make himself alive?

b) Even Jesus rose from the grave by the power of the Holy Spirit.

c) No one has life without the power of the Holy Spirit.

2) You were darkened; Ephesians 5:8 “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:” The word “darkness” means - full of darkness, or covered with darkness – The Lord said in John 1:5 “And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.” Example Jesus stood before Nicodemus and Nicodemus recognized Him as a common Rabbi, as one of them.

3) He is mortal

a) Meaning – He was born spiritually dead and he will die spiritually dead unless some power changes him.

b) Meaning - he was unable to comprehend anything except sin.

c) Meaning – he was unable to come to God. **Romans 3:11** “There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.” – Job asks **Job 21:15** “What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?”

d) This is what depravity is.

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