

## King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries  
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

### The Book of John

Lesson 9

Return pages 6 & 7 only

Read John 3:12-36

**J**ohn 3:12 *If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.* Why would Jesus say that to Nicodemus? Jesus is not in heaven; He is standing right there on the street at night talking to Nicodemus. If the Holy Spirit is using John to write these things as a commentary upon Jesus conversation with Nicodemus, then it fits perfectly. Who ascended up to heaven? ...*but he that came down from heaven.* Jesus cannot say that to Nicodemus that night – it had not happened. He had not ascended to heaven; He has not even died yet. ...*even the Son of man which is in heaven.* If the *Son of man which is in heaven*, then who is talking to Nicodemus? It looks to me like, this is not a continuation of Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus, but rather the Holy Spirit is inserting a commentary in here with regard to with what Nicodemus had to say.

Think about it in these terms, John is writing. *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.* That really sounds like the words of the apostles. Now it could be Jesus and the scriptures. Verse 12. *If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?* Now, whoever said it, that is a great statement, there is nothing in Jesus' conversation to Nicodemus that He even remotely refers to heavenly things. Why shift all the conversation over to that – that is not the topic of conversation; and if the Holy Spirit is writing through John, it would be perfectly correct to say, somebody ascended up to heaven? Who is it? It is the same one that came down from heaven. Who is that? It is the Son of Man. Well, where is He? He is in heaven.

So it looks to me like those probably are not red-letter verses, but are rather verses written by the Holy Spirit to tell us – look, you want to know about heaven? Get born again on earth and you can know about heaven. Because if you cannot receive earthly things; that is the things you need to know in this earth; how will you understand if I tell you things about heaven? Why should I give you forty chapters on heaven, if you are not going there? You have to be born again.

John 3:14 *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,* We all remember that story from Numbers 21. People are dying; no help; nothing they can do to save themselves, except by faith, lift up their eyes and believe that serpent hanging on the pole can save me. Okay – the same way. I am dying. I have to look to the Lord. Believe He can save me, and He will; I have no other way to survive the serpent's bite. ...*even so must the Son of man be lifted up:*

Let us consider the seven importance's of the word "**must**" as it appears in the Book of John.

Man's necessity.

Ye must be born again. John 3:7

God's necessity.

He must be lifted up. John 3:14

Christ's necessity.

I must work the works of God John 9:4

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Servant's necessity.	He must increase, but I must decrease. John 3:30
Nations necessity.	He must needs go through John 4:4
Scripture's necessity.	He must rise again from the dead John 20:9
Believer's necessity.	They.....must worship Him. John 4:24

John 3:15 *That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.* It is all about believing in John. It is not works; it is believing. *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,* love is an action, not just a saying, it is giving. ...*that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* Match up verse 15 with verse 16, **eternal** equals **everlasting** and **everlasting** equals **eternal**. They line up side by side.

*For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.* Why? *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already,* That is why Jesus did not come to condemn the world; it was already condemned.

I have heard a good illustration that will help you to understand this more clearly. Your driving around the neighborhood looking for a house to buy, a handyman special so you can get a good deal, and you see a house. You say, I can buy that house and fix it up. It needs a little work; it needs a little repair, but I can fix it but the house next door has a sign next to the door that says "Condemned." What does that mean? You cannot fix it. No amount of money. No amount of skill; no amount of time, it just cannot be fixed. You have to tear it down and start all over again. God did not say the world was in need of repair. God did not say the world was in need of restoration. He said the world was condemned. You cannot fix it. You cannot repair it. You have to tear it down to nothing and start all over again. Hallelujah.

Why are they condemned? ...*because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.* John 3:19 *And this is the condemnation,* This is what John talks about all the way through. ...*that light is come into the world,* (small L, that is not Jesus.) *and men loved darkness rather than light,* (small L) *because their deeds were evil.* If you will not come to the light (small L), you will never get to the light (capital L). If you will not believe a gospel witness, you will not read a gospel tract or you will not believe the Bible, you will never get to Jesus.

John 3:20 *For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, Everyone;* nobody out there is neutral. There is no neutral ground. ...*neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.* Nobody likes to be told that they are wrong. That is why many people go to hell. That is why saved people do not get right with God. That is why carnal people do not stay in a Bible preaching church. Why do people that believe the Bible and claim to love the Lord, why is it they cannot stay in church? They do not want to be reproved (told that they are wrong). Why is it that lost people do not mind you being religious and do not mind you going to church, but cannot stand you talking about it? They do not want to be reproved. Why? Their deeds are evil. If that person cannot be faithful to church, if that person cannot stand to hear the preaching of the gospel, there are evil deeds at work. You may not know about them. Nobody else may know about them; but there are evil deeds at work. Look at the truth in this verse in Job, it is so clear, Job 24:13 *They are of those that* (number 1) *rebel against the light;* (number 2) *they know not the ways thereof,* (number 3) *nor abide in the paths thereof.* They rebel against the light. They know not the ways thereof. They do not abide in the paths thereof.

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John 3:21 *But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.* Now listen, everybody is a sinner. Everybody does things that are wrong. If you are a lost man that hears truth...you know that truth will draw you closer and you will be inclined to listen to more truth, each time you incline in the direction of that truth it gives you a greater opportunity to receive Jesus. Being a moral man will not save you; but it will incline you toward light. Do you have an appetite for truth? Do you have an appetite for what is right? You come to a man and you say, "you need to be saved." That guy does not see anything wrong with his drinking, anything wrong with his drugs, anything wrong with his fornicating. He is not the least interested in getting saved. But, if that man begins to listen and then starts thinking about his sins, and how they are messing up his life. Do you know what that is? That is truth. He is getting drunk every night. But, truth is beginning to affect his heart. He is inclining his heart toward the truth. That is why you give out tracts to people that are not going to respond today. That is why you witness to people that are not going to respond today. If we just get them to start inclining in the right direction? Maybe our meager efforts will get him to lean toward truth instead of toward darkness?

Here are seven highlights seen in the book of John as related to Life, we may come back to each of these later throughout our study

- (1) It is manifested through Jesus. (John 1:4)
- (2) It is obtained through Jesus. (John 3:16)
- (3) It is possessed through Jesus (John 4:14) You may possess eternal life.
- (4) It is sustained through Jesus (John 6:35)
- (5) It is ministered through Jesus. (John 7:38)
- (6) It is abundant through Jesus. (John 10:10)
- (7) It is resurrected through Jesus. (John 11:24-25)

### In John Chapter 3,

God is...love, verse 16.

He is Salvation Verse 17.

He is condemnation Verse 18.

He is wrath Verse 36.

He is the same God – it depends on what you do with Him.

Love and salvation or condemnation and wrath – it depends on what you do with Jesus.

Christ died **for** sin.

The believer dies **to** sin.

The unbeliever dies **in** sin.

*John 3:28*

28 *Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.*

For what John says in a negative sense. He says I am not the Christ. He continues to say that, He says I am not the bridegroom. He calls himself the sent one, the one sent before the Christ the one who was sent before the bridegroom and he says that he is a friend of the bridegroom who rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. I wonder if we could all say that? We have hold God's words? Is not Jesus Christ the bridegroom? I

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wonder if we rejoice greatly to just stand and hear His voice? John did. *This my joy therefore is fulfilled.*

And then here is the key to his life. *He must increase, but I must decrease.* That is not just true of John the Baptist; that is true of everybody. You will not mature as a Christian without decreasing. You will not be greatly used of God without decreasing. You have to take the downward path and allow Jesus Christ to increase to become more to you, to occupy more of your thoughts, govern more of your heart, your actions.

Verse 31. *He that cometh from above is above all:* That would be Jesus. *...he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth:* That would be everybody else. *...he that cometh from heaven is above all.* John is saying, "Look – I am a man; you can make as much of me as you want to, but I am not who you should be paying attention too. He is greater than I am. He is greater than you are.

Verse 32. *And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony.* What a sad thing, Look at Luke 16:31. Think about what John is saying. Do not Matthew, Mark, Luke and John tell you that multitudes came out there to that river? And multitudes were being baptized and multitudes were confessing their sins? And yet the Holy Spirit says here, John speaking, he says, *no man receiveth his testimony.* Look at Luke 16:28 (this is the rich man speaking from hell), verse 30, *And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.* They did not believe John the Baptist; they would not believe somebody coming up from the dead – what is the reference here? You have to go back into the context to John 3:20. *For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.*

Now, think about the three groups you have. John is of the earth, earthy. And if you love darkness and evil deeds, you will not receive the testimony of a man from earth. And if somebody came out of hell (Luke 16) and you loved darkness rather than light, your deeds were evil, you would not receive his testimony either. And if somebody came down from heaven, Jesus Christ the Son of God, if you loved evil and hated the light, you would not receive His testimony. So you can say, "well, I think that God should have done this way or that way... I think God should have written, Ye must be born again in the stars across the sky at night... I think God should have appeared in the form of an angel..." Look – however God does it, if your heart does not want light and does not want truth, you are not going to receive the testimony.

Verse 33. *He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.* If you want to be sure the testimony is true? You have to receive it. You cannot know until you receive; you cannot be sure until you receive. You will not have assurance until you receive.

Verse 34. *For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.* Jesus Christ was what? He was full, the fullness of the God-head dwelling in Him.

Eph 4:7

7 *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*  
(KJV)

Everybody that is saved was given a measure of the Spirit. Jesus did not have a measure of the Spirit. He had the fullness of the God-head, that is Colossians 1:19

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### **Eph 4:7**

**7** *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*  
(KJV)

### **John 3:35**

**35** *The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.*

(KJV) Now, here's one of those verses, one you ought to memorize

verse: **36** *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

So, what makes the difference between life and wrath? It is believing. It is believing on the Son. If there is one thing that this book of John teaches, it is that you have to believe on the Son; believe on Jesus; believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, over and over and over and over again.

John's last testimony, it runs from verse 27 down to verse 36. Think about it. He said,

- (1) I can only receive what God gave me. The Father had given all things to Christ and Christ chose to give some of them to me. That's what John said.
- (2) Jesus is the Christ and John is only set before Him.
- (3) Christ is the bridegroom. John is just a friend.
- (4) Christ must increase and John must decrease.
- (5) John was of the earth; Jesus was from above and above all.
- (6) John had a measure of the Spirit. Christ had the fullness of the Spirit.
- (7) John was a servant but Jesus was the Son.

Now, when you look at that, think about it. Jesus said, "of those born of women, none is greater than John Baptist. And yet everything John said about himself was "I am really nothing. Jesus is everything. I am really small. Jesus is large. I am really insignificant. Jesus is significant. Do you know why He is the greatest man born among women? Because he was the most humble. We have that whole thing backwards in our world today? Why is he so great? Because he says he is not. It truly is amazing how God honors those who will honor His Son, not themselves. And how God magnifies those who lift up His Son, not themselves; and I just hope God will help us in everything we do, not to touch His glory. Not to try and take any of it to ourselves, just let Him be big. Let Him get all the credit for what takes place.

Notes

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**The Book of John**

## Lesson 9

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Read John 3:12-36**

1. Why was the Son not sent to condemn the world?
2. What is the land of Judea?
3. Explain what is so interesting about the way the Holy Spirit has written the word of God in verse John 3:12 .
4. Who is full and who only has a measure?
5. What are the seven "musts" in John 3?
6. Explain the similarities between Number 21 and John 3.
7. Explain the following terms:
  - a. the only begotten Son.
  - b. light (small "l")
  - c. Light (capital "L")

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- d. giveth not the Spirit by measure to him
  - e. eternal life and everlasting life
8. What is the difference between life and wrath?
9. What are seven highlights in the book of John?
- 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  - 6.
  - 7.
10. What seven things were part of John's last testimony?
- 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  - 6.
  - 7.

**True/false**

- When something is condemned it is absolutely good for nothing and must be replaced.
- If you want GOD to raise you up, you must get down.
- No one is neutral when it comes to believing in the Lord Jesus Christ



Scripture Memorization; (write these on the back on the sheet, Must be in KJV)  
John 3:36; John 3:16, 17, 18.

any questions?