

It would be a tragedy to spend your life studying the Bible and yet end up perishing on judgment day.

In our text, Jesus is talking with a leading religious teacher in Israel (Jesus calls him “*the teacher of Israel who does not understand the basics of [spiritual](#) truth in [John 3:10](#).*

Nicodemus had devoted his life to the study of the Scriptures, and yet he did not understand Jesus’ words [John 33:3](#)

Without the new birth you’re spiritually dead and cut off from God. If you die without the new birth, you will perish [John 3:16, 36](#).

- You need the new birth so that you can understand and respond to spiritual truth.

Most scholars agree that by the time of Jesus’ crucifixion, Nicodemus had come to faith, as evidenced in his courage in helping with the burial of Jesus (19:38-42).

But at this point, he had not been born again and so he was spiritually confused, in spite of his years of religious studies and devotion. (Lets look at someone else who assume he had good religion [Acts 10:1-16](#).)

Only after one receives Divine revelation through the unction / anointing of the Holy Spirit can one’s religion be undefiled. [Acts 10; 24-33](#). [1 Corinthians. 2:14](#), [Matthew 16:16](#)

Jesus draws a sharp line between physical birth and spiritual birth. [John 3:6, 6:63](#)

By “flesh,” He is referring to human nature or the natural man. because of Adam’s sin, we’re all born in sin, separated from God, and unable to submit to God [Romans. 5;12, 8:6-8](#)

- It is absolutely essential that you experience the new birth [John 3:7](#):

“Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’” “Must” is a strong word of necessity. It’s not an option.

- The effects of the new birth are unmistakable [John 3:8](#):

Jesus said You can’t see the wind, you can’t control it, and you can’t understand it. It goes where it pleases. But you can observe its effects.

The changes are not external, but an internal change, brought about by new life within. [Acts 2;6-8, Acts 9:10-15](#)

- What are the effects of the new birth?

[1 John: 2:29](#): [1 John 3:9](#): [1 John 3:14](#): [1 John 4:7](#) [1 John 5:1](#): [1 John 5:4](#) [1 John 5:18](#):

John is not referring to a sinless life, but to a life that sins less. In other words, all whom the Spirit saves, He sanctifies. It takes a lifetime, but they progressively grow in holiness, [Hebrews. 12:14](#)

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