

Text: John 3

Subject: Evangelism

Sub-Topic: Personal Evangelism: "Born Again" III

INTRODUCTION

1. The Salvation Plan of God

- a) There are many parts
- b) Some are easier to comprehend
- c) Some a little harder to understand

2. Undergirding the Plan of Salvation

- a) The role of the Lord Jesus Christ
- b) The love of God
- c) The work of the Holy Spirit

AN EXAMPLE DRAWN FROM THE SCRIPTURES

1. A reference to an occasion when Moses made a brazen serpent

John 3:14; Numbers 21:4-9

2. Recalling this story

a) The children of Israel

i) Spoke against God

ii) Spoke against Moses

Numbers 21:5

b) Content of their complaint

i) Why were they led out of Egypt?

The choice was left to the children of Israel to leave Egypt
Or to stay as slaves of the Pharaoh!

ii) No food/no water

This was not true!

iii) They described manna as "worthless bread"

Numbers 21:5

They despised what God had graciously provided!

- c) God had to chastise the complainers
 - i) This was not the first time they complained
 - ii) Fiery serpents came into their camp
 - iii) People died Numbers 21:6
- d) The people then confessed
 - i) They had sinned
 - ii) They had spoken against the Lord
 - iii) They had spoken against Moses Numbers 21:7a
- e) Desperate plea to Moses
 - i) To pray to God on their behalf
 - ii) That God might take away the serpents Numbers 21:7b
- f) Moses prayed for the people Numbers 21:7c
 - i) As he always had
 - ii) Moses was faithful to the very end
- g) God's response
 - i) Make a fiery serpent
 - ii) Set it on a pole
 - iii) Everyone who is bitten when he looks at it
 - iv) He shall live Numbers 21:8
- h) A bronze serpent was made
 - i) It was put on a pole
 - ii) If a person had been bitten
 - iii) If he looked at the bronze serpent

iv) He lived

Numbers 21:9

3. What this Story was meant to teach

a) The problem of Sin

- i) It makes people complain
- ii) One can speak against God
- iii) One can speak against man too

b) The consequences of sin

- i) Sin has terrible consequences
- ii) Punishment may be meted out

c) God's answer to sin

- i) There must be confession of sin
- ii) There must be true repentance
- iii) There must be the "Look of faith"
- iv) It is not the bronze serpent that saves
- v) It is God who saves

d) The people had to make a response

- i) An appropriate response
- ii) A humble response
- iii) A sincere response

Their lives depended on their response!

4. The Application of this story

- a) As Moses lifted up the serpent
- b) Even so must the Son of Man be lifted up
- c) This is a reference to the Crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ

5. What the Story is NOT

- a) The Lord Jesus Christ is NOT the brazen serpent
- b) This must be made clear

6. What the Lord Jesus was trying to teach

- a) God knows all about our struggles with Sin
- b) Sin will have to be judged one day
- c) God's Solution was to send the Lord Jesus as the Son of Man
 - i) He will suffer for us
 - ii) He will die for our sins
- d) We need to have that Look of Faith

Then can we be saved from the penalty of sin!

HOW WE MAY EFFECTIVELY RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL OF SALVATION

1. Recognition of Sin

- a) In our heart
- b) In our life

2. Repentance of Sin

- a) Confession
- b) Cleansing sought

3. Receiving the Lord Jesus Christ

- a) Recognition of the work of our Saviour
 - i) He was lifted up
 - ii) He was crucified
 - iii) He gave His life for us
- b) Receiving the Lord with a Look of genuine faith

c) Rejoicing that God would forgive all our sins

d) Relating to God as our Heavenly Father
Made possible by the Lord Jesus Christ

John 1:12