

**Problem:**

the gospel must be seen in the context or it means nothing  
 God's love must be seen in the context or it means nothing

**Text:****Nicodemus: We know you are a teacher from God**

John 3:1 ¶ Now there was **a man of the Pharisees** named Nicodemus, **a ruler of the Jews**.

John 3:2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, **we know that you are a teacher come from God**, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."

*Jn 2:23-25 - context for Nicodemus - Jesus does not need man to bear witness about Him - no favoritism not even the ruler of the Jews - her doesn't need famous people etc-*

**Jesus: You cannot see unless you are born again**

John 3:3 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born again he cannot see** the kingdom of God."

*the natural man receives not - 1 Cor 2:14-16*

**Nicodemus: what can I do to be born again?**

John 3:4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

*God chose what is foolish to shame the strong so no boast but in God- 1 Cor 1:27-29*

**Jesus: You can't do anything**

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God**.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 3:7 Do not marvel that I said to you(s), 'You(p) must be born again.'

John 3:8 **The wind(pneuma/ruach-spirit) blows where it wishes**, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit(pneuma/ruach-wind)."

*(5-6) born of flesh and spirit- 1 Cor 15:46-50*

*(8) born of the WILL of God - John 1:9-13*

*(8) the flesh is no help at all - Jn 6:60-65*

**Nicodemus: I dont understand**

John 3:9 ¶ Nicodemus said to him, "**How can these things be?**"

*the law is meant to bring knowledge of sin -build an altar - Exodus 20:22-24*

**how can you**

John 3:10 Jesus answered him, "**Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?**"

John 3:11 Truly, truly, I say to you, *we (Jesus and john or spirit) speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you(p) do not receive our testimony* (nicodemus and his not getting it represented the people)

John 3:12 If I have told you earthly things (your guilt and inability) and **you do not believe, how can you believe** if I tell you heavenly things (God's impossible work)?

*(12) nicodemus was not given an altar call- why? Matt 19:16-26 -he could not see his inability -earthly things could not see the gospel because he could not see his guilt and inability*

**You need a vital lens**

John 3:13 No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, **the Son of Man**.

John 3:14 *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, (isaiah 6:1; 52:13)*

John 3:15 that **whoever believes in him may have eternal life**.

John 3:16 ¶ "For **God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life**.

John 3:17 For **God** did not send his **Son** into **the world** to condemn **the world**, but in order that **the world** might be **saved through him**.

John 3:18 **Whoever** (from the whole world) **believes** in him is not condemned (*not, not guilty, but not condemned/sentenced*) but **whoever** does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

John 3:19 And **this is the judgment: the light has come into the world**, and people **loved the darkness** rather than the light because their works were evil. (*Jn 3:2 came to Jesus at night*)

John 3:20 For **everyone** who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

John 3:21 But **whoever** does what is true **comes to the light**, so that it may be clearly seen that his **works** have been carried out **in God**."

**when you see your guilt (whoever)**

*(14-18) whosoever from the guilty world - Rom 3:9-20 - the world- jew and gentile are guilty*

*(19-21) whosoever from the guilty darkness - Rom 1:16-32 - they loved the darkness even in the face of the light*

**and when you see His wrath**

*(14-15) you have to see His wrath - nothing you can do but look up - num 21:7-9*

**you see the glory of His grace**

*(14-15) it is the gift of the Son - Isaiah 6:1; 52:13-15 (phil 2:9 therefore God has highly exalted Him)*

*(16-18) the gift of the Father - Gen 22:1-14; (2 Chron 3:1; Jn 19:17); **1 John 4:9-10***

*(19-21) the gift of the Spirit - John 3:8; Eph 2:1-10*

**Main Idea:**

you cannot see the gospel until you see it through your guilt  
you cannot see God's grace until you see it through His wrath

**Implication: 3:11-13**

Nicodemus could not see the gospel because he could not see his guilt and inability

**Application:**

but when you see your guilt  
and when you see His wrath  
you see the glory of His grace

**Action:**

make sure to give the gospel in context  
make sure to believe

***here are some articles for further study:***

<http://www.gotquestions.org/doctrines-of-grace.html>

how are all of these doctrines of grace taught in this passage of John?

<http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/onsite/John316-321.html>

how does the Law work in preaching the gospel? (to show our inability)  
discuss how we can make sure we get the gospel right

[http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/piper/piper\\_atonement.html](http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/piper/piper_atonement.html)

how do you explain Christ dying for the whole world?