

# The Gospel of John

## Chapter 3, part 3

- I. Introduction
  - a. In our previous lesson, we discussed some of the more popular verses in Christendom today
    - i. Today, the verses may not be as popular, but, they are just as important
- II. Commentary
  - a. **Verses 22-24**
    - i. Jesus and His disciples came to Judea
      - 1. Having been baptized by the only one God had authorized to baptize (John), they now baptized
        - a. Though it sounds as though Jesus was baptizing, it was actually the disciples that were baptizing (4:2)
    - ii. While Christ and His disciples were in Judea, John was baptizing in Aenon
      - 1. John's ministry did not stop when Christ's began
        - a. They overlapped for a time
      - 2. Notice, John baptized here because there was "much water there"
        - a. This is another passage that teaches baptism by immersion
    - iii. We are given a hint of John's coming imprisonment
  - b. **Verses 25-26**
    - i. There was a contention between the disciples of John and the Jews about purification
      - 1. It's hard to be exactly sure what this is speaking of
        - a. Two possibilities are given by Gill
          - i. This may be a discussion of the requirements of the Mosaic Law
          - ii. This may be a discussion of the requirements of the traditions of the Jews which were not required by the Bible
      - 2. These disciples told John that Jesus was baptizing and "*all are coming to Him!*"
        - a. This is a good example of the word "all" not necessarily meaning "all"
          - i. Surely, these weren't coming to Christ to be baptized
          - ii. The obvious meaning here is that many were being baptized by Christ (through the disciples) and this was causing a stir among the Jews
  - c. **Verses 27-36**
    - i. John explained to them a similar teaching to what Jesus had shared with Nicodemus
      - 1. John tells them that a man must be given understanding from Heaven
      - 2. Jesus said a man must be born again
        - a. Both of these speak of the new birth, or regeneration
    - ii. John tells them that he had told them plainly that he was not the Christ
      - 1. He was sent before Christ

- a. He was sent to “prepare the way of the Lord”
- iii. John introduces us to some things that would be considered mysteries in the Old Testament
  - 1. The Bride of Christ
    - a. Of course, this is the Lord’s church
      - i. In the hereafter, His bride will be made up of His faithful, true New Testament churches
  - 2. The Bridegroom
    - a. This is the Lord Jesus Christ
  - 3. John tells us that he is neither of these
    - a. He is not the Messiah
    - b. He is not in the Bride
      - i. He is only a friend of the Bridegroom
      - ii. He was not part of one of the Lord’s churches
      - iii. John was the last prophet of the Old Testament economy(**Mat. 11:13; Luk. 16:16**)
        - 1. John ushered in a great turning point
- iv. The ministry of Christ would grow while the ministry of John would come to an end
  - 1. John shows an humble faith in this
- v. John explains that Christ is from Heaven while he (and all of us) is just from the Earth
  - 1. Those that believe Christ believe God because He is God
    - a. This is proof that God is true
- vi. The Holy Spirit was poured out on Christ completely
  - 1. We are filled with the Holy Spirit at various times, but, not in this way
- vii. The elementary facts of salvation are given again
  - 1. Believers are saved
  - 2. Unbelievers are condemned
    - a. If our “deeper doctrine” contradicts this, we are wrong
      - i. It’s similar to college level math
        - 1. Even in college level math, 2 + 2 always equals 4
          - a. This is a basic fact
            - i. The same is true concerning the need for believing the Gospel to be saved