



In today's lesson, we will peruse the exchange between Nicodemus the Pharisee and Jesus, called the Christ.

"1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; 2 this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, 'Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do

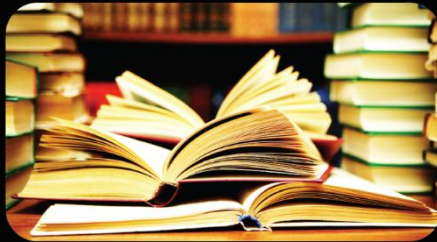
LIFE OF CHRIST

3.0

SIX MONTH MEMORY WORK:

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

- BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, Hebrews 11:6
- REPENT OF YOUR SIN, Luke 13:5
- CONFESS CHRIST TO OTHERS, Luke 9:26
- BE IMMERSSED INTO CHRIST FOR FORGIVENESS OF SIN, Acts 2:38
- WALK FAITHFULLY, Colossians 1:10



unless God is with him.' 3 Jesus answered and said to him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.' 4 Nicodemus said to Him, 'How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?' 5 Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.'"

John 3:1-6 NASB

Reach Advanced

Lesson 001
Student Edition

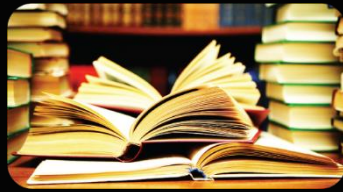


John the Immerser came baptizing in the Jordan River for the **forgiveness of sins** (Mark 1:4).

Scripture says all Israel came to be immersed with one exception—the sect of the Pharisees.

Nicodemus, a Pharisee, came to Christ secretly

to inquire of Him concerning the Kingdom. His group was training to look for the Messiah's



coming in accordance with the coming of the Kingdom. Nicodemus couldn't deny the works Jesus performed. The question was, "If the Messiah was here, where was the Kingdom?" Jesus knew what was in Nicodemus' heart and cut the Pharisee off at the pass. He interrupted Nicodemus' line of questioning and told him what was required to see and enter the Kingdom—birth through the water and the Spirit. This was the one thing that the Pharisees were unwilling to do. See the text

THOSE THAT SEE AND ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD

"29 When all the people and the tax collectors heard this, they acknowledged God's justice, having been baptized with the baptism of John. 30 But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose for themselves, not having been baptized by John."
Luke 7:29-30 NASB

As long as the Pharisees, including Nicodemus, were refusing God's purpose for themselves, they would never

see the Kingdom of God. The Lord had rejected them before they had begun to reject Jesus as Christ. Today, John's immersion has been superseded by Christian baptism. What if we decline? If they were rejected for refusing that which was less, how much more we who have that which is greater? Let us not fall short of entering the Kingdom of God.



actiones secundum fidei

ACCEPTED OR REJECTED?

The **only** reason the Scripture gives for the rejection of the Pharisees is that they refused to be baptized of John. Will you accept God's purpose in your life?



1. The Pharisees were because they refused to be baptized by John.
2. Scripture says all Israel came to be by John, except for the Pharisees.
3. Biblical immersion is not fleshly in nature; it is a birth.
4. Jesus said that birth through the and is necessary to enter the Kingdom of God.
5. Today, John's immersion has been superseded by Christian .

"OF WATER & THE SPIRIT"

BORN, NOT OF FLESH, BUT OF THE SPIRIT

Some will say, "this has nothing to do with immersion, it speaks of natural birth." This is absurd. Even Nicodemus knew better. If natural birth was the answer, he would have no need to question about entering **again** into his mother's womb nor would Christ need to explain that this thing is spiritual in nature, not of the flesh.



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