

John # 36

“Born Free, as Free
as the Wind Blows”

John 3:3-12; John 8:12-36

Contrary to popular belief, we are NOT born free; we’re born physically alive and at the same time, spiritually dead, slaves to sin through our sin nature due to Adam’s original sin being credited to us at birth.

Spiritual death is separation from God from birth in a state of total helplessness with regard to any relationship with God.

Spiritual death is therefore a judgment from God.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is our only hope!

‘Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.’

The Apostle John concludes chapter 2 by stating that Jesus knew all about mankind in general and individually; what he thought, planned, did and why (his motivation);

John 2:24-25 “But Jesus would not entrust Himself to them for He knew all people. He did not need any testimony

about mankind, for He knew what was in each person.”

And Jesus proves it by taking time with a highly religious man named Nicodemus who is positive at God-consciousness and will also be positive at Gospel hearing.

John 20:30-31 “Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of His disciples which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God and that by believing you may have life in His Name.”

If you have trusted in TLJC as your Savior, you will always have His life in you; there never will be a time when you do not have it.

In *John 10:10*, Jesus is not just talking about acquiring a born-again new spiritual life; He’s going beyond the initial salvation experience to include a maximum exploitation of that life; “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life (eternal life by grace through faith in Christ) and have it to the full,” literally, more abundantly (a full-blown spiritually mature experience of walking with our Savior, His joy and His sufferings).

And what does it take to maintain physical life? Physical food; “Man shall not live by bread alone” and spiritual life?

Spiritual food; “but by every Word from the Mouth of God.”

We can only achieve this growth by understanding God’s grace through our accumulation of the knowledge of our Lord’s mind, based on own understanding of biblical truth which

must be our #1 priority.

We'll never grow spiritually until we make understanding, believing and applying the Word of God our breath of life, our way of living, not just something else we do in life like a hobby.

It's been said; 'Live and learn' but the Bible says 'Learn and live' and when we live to learn the Word of God, our thinking is transformed and then God the Holy Spirit produces His fruit in us and we glorify God as a supernatural result; Romans 12:2 "Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will."

The amazing irony is that the Pharisees believed in the Old Testament Hebrew Scriptures as the inspired Word of God; the coming of Messiah; miracles and the resurrection! Nicodemus was as religious as they come but he was also different from most other Pharisees.

1st Cor 1:26-29 says: "Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before Him."

Nicodemus turned out to be an exception to the rule.

For someone to believe that Jesus is a great teacher or that He is a man sent by God is NOT 'saving faith!'

The religious are so blinded that they cannot think in terms of spiritual truth.

Eph 5:26 "to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the Word,"

1st Peter 1:23 "For you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and enduring Word of God."

When challenged by a religious person do not apply the law of love because legalistic religion is the enemy of God.

Just because someone hears about and knows how to get to Heaven doesn't mean he will!