

# Lifting Up Christ

**John 3:14-16**

# Introduction

- ▶ Today, we examine a text that ties the Old and New Testaments together. Jesus refers to an event and applies it to Himself.
- ▶ He is speaking to Nicodemus, a Jewish ruler who would be a disciple.
- ▶ He comes to Jesus at night and notes that He must be from God (**John 3:2**)
- ▶ This leads to a conversation about our need to be born again and Jesus' part

# The Serpent Moses Lifted Up

## ▶ **Numbers 21:4-9**

- ▶ Israel is again complaining against Moses and God. They even complained about “this worthless bread”
- ▶ YHWH sent fiery serpents and people began to die.
- ▶ The people “repented” and asked Moses to pray for them.
- ▶ YHWH instructed Moses to make a fiery serpent and raise it in the camp. When people were bit, if they looked at the serpent they would be healed.

# The Serpent Moses Lifted Up

- ▶ Lesson: There are 3 aspects associated with salvation.
  - 1) God's part - "grace" - He does what we cannot do
  - 2) Faith - we hear and must believe what we have been told about Jesus and salvation
  - 3) Response - we react and do what we are told to do.
- ▶ Consider **Ephesians 2:8-9,**  
**1 Peter 3:20-21**

# The Serpent Moses Lifted Up

- ▶ Lesson: Consider these 3 elements with the Bronze serpent (**Numbers 21:4-9**)
  - 1) God's part - "grace" - He would heal
  - 2) Faith - people had to believe that if they looked at the serpent they would be healed
  - 3) Response - they had to go to the bronze serpent and look at it (actions)
- ▶ This pattern was consistent several times in the Old Testament - Noah (**Gen. 6:9ff**)  
Jericho (**Joshua 6**)

# Jesus Was Lifted Up

- ▶ Consider **John 3:14-17**
- ▶ Jesus' primary point to Nicodemus was that He must die so that mankind could be saved
- ▶ Jesus often emphasized that He needed to die - **John 8:28, 12:31-33, Matthew 26:28**
- ▶ Jesus died by crucifixion - **Matthew 27:35, Mark 15:24-25, Luke 23:33, John 19:16-18.** He WAS lifted up!

# Jesus Was Lifted Up

- ▶ As a result of His crucifixion, we can be saved - **1 Peter 3:18, Romans 5:8, Ephesians 1:7**  
**1 Corinthians 1:21-24, 2:2**
- ▶ The crucifixion of Jesus is the fulcrum of the gospel - **1 Corinthians 15:1-3**

# Jesus Was Lifted Up

- ▶ How does this relate to our salvation?
- ▶ Consider the 3 elements of the bronze serpent lifted up by Moses and relate them to Jesus being lifted up for our salvation
- ▶ God's grace - *"God so loved the world..."*  
**Ephesians 1:7, 2:4-8,**  
**Romans 3:23-24,** *justified freely by His grace*



# Jesus Was Lifted Up

- ▶ How does this relate to our salvation?
- ▶ God's grace - *"God so loved the world..."*
- ▶ Our faith - twice in our text (**John 3:15-16**)  
Jesus mentions belief  
**Romans 10:8-10, 17**, *so then faith comes by hearing...*  
In the wilderness, no faith - no healing. There was nothing natural or medical about what they were told to do. They had to believe what God had promised.
- ▶ Similarly, we need salvation. We have to believe what God promises to do.

# Jesus Was Lifted Up

- ▶ How does this relate to our salvation?
- ▶ God's grace - "*God so loved the world...*"
- ▶ Our faith - we have to believe
- ▶ Our response - we act!  
Belief is not mere acknowledgment, but an active response.  
**Hebrews 5:9**, *He became the author of salvation to all who obey Him.*
- ▶ **Mark 16:16, Romans 6:3-4** - baptism tied to His DBR, **Galatians 3:27, Philippians 3:8-11**
- ▶ When we believe, we must obey -  
**Matthew 7:21-23**

# Jesus Was Lifted Up

- ▶ Tying these events together
- ▶ Jesus tied the events together in **John 3:14-16**.

	Israel	Today
The malady	Fiery Serpent	Sin
God's Remedy	The Bronze Serpent	Jesus dying on the cross
Belief	If they looked...	If we look to Jesus...
Action	They went to and looked	Obey the gospel

# How can we lift Him up today?

- ▶ When we are saved, what is expected of us then?
- ▶ Both the serpent and Christ were literally lifted up leading to salvation
- ▶ Lifting up can also mean to elevate. Since He was “lifted up” for us, are we willing to “lift Him up” in our lives?
- ▶ Let us consider some ways we can “lift up” Jesus...

Lifting Up Christ

John 3:14-16

# How can we lift Him up today?

**By the example that we set!**

- ▶ As we live, others should see Christ living in us. **Matthew 5:16**
- ▶ **1 John 2:6**, we walk as He walked  
**1 Corinthians 11:1**, imitate Him  
**Colossians 3:17**, do all in the name of the Lord  
**Colossians 3:1-3**, our life is hidden with Christ in God

# How can we lift Him up today?

## By possessing the mind of Christ

- ▶ **Philippians 2:5**, let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus

- 1 Peter 4:1**, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind...

- ▶ WWJD -

- e.g., Matthew 7:12**, “the golden rule”

Lifting Up Christ

John 3:14-16

# How can we lift Him up today?

## By being willing to suffer for Him

- ▶ **1 Peter 2:21-24, 4:12-16**, Christ suffered, leaving us an example...  
**cf. Galatians 6:17**, Paul bore the marks of Jesus
- ▶ When we refuse to compromise our faith, even to the point of suffering, we are lifting Him up

Lifting Up Christ

John 3:14-16

# How can we lift Him up today?

## As we partake of the Lord's Supper

- ▶ **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**, each week we remember the sacrifice of our Lord until He returns.
- ▶ We “lift Him up” in our worship

Lifting Up Christ

John 3:14-16



# How can we lift Him up today?

## By proclaiming Him to others

▶ **Galatians 3:1**, is Christ “clearly portrayed among you as crucified”?

**1 Corinthians 2:1-5**, Paul determined to only make known Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

▶ When we tell others about Jesus, we are exalting Him.

Lifting Up Christ

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Jesus was “lifted up” to give  
us hope beyond this life.  
Have you looked up to Him for  
salvation?

**Are you continuing to lift Him  
up?**

Let us pray?

Lifting Up Christ

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