

“THE GREATEST DOCTRINE, THE SIMPLEST TRUTH”

JOHN 3:9-21

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Introduction

A famous theologian was asked what he thought was the greatest truth in the Bible. He gave this answer:

In John 3 we see how Jesus brings Nicodemus, the teacher of the Pharisees, face to face with his need to be born again.

Born again (v3)

In this passage Jesus gives us one of the greatest Old Testament illustrations on what it means to be born again.

1. An amazing of the cross (v14-15)

Numbers 21:4-9

“fiery serpents”

Horror & glory

Jesus left no doubt about the application: v14-15

- The snake is a picture of

Romans 3:10

- The likeness of a snake, lifted on a pole, pictures Christ who became for us

Romans 8:3

2 Corinthians 5:21

Isaiah 53:6

Galatians 3:13

- The of faith

Numbers 21:9 “When anyone looked at the bronze snake, he lived.”

2. An amazing of the cross (v16)

Martin Luther: John 3:16 - "The Gospel in miniature"

- "For God - the greatest
- so loved - the greatest
- the world - the greatest
- that he gave - the greatest
- His only Son - the greatest
- that whoever - the greatest
- believes - the greatest
- in Him - the greatest
- shall not perish - the greatest
- but - the greatest
- have - the greatest
- Eternal life" - the greatest

3. An amazing for the cross (v17-18)

How people respond to the cross reveals their hearts.

2 Kings 18:4-5 Hezekiah's destruction of the bronze serpent

The Old Rugged Cross

1. On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suff'ring and shame;
And I love that old cross where the Dearest and Best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it someday for a crown.

2. Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary.
3. In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see,
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me.
4. To the old rugged cross I will ever be true;
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me someday to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.