

THREE “MUSTS” FROM JOHN 3

By Keith Greer

Today, we examine the three "**musts**" in the third chapter of John's gospel:

We must be born again. "... Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again." (John 3:5-7) No one can enter God's family without experiencing the spiritual birth. Under Moses' law, men and women were physically born into God's family. But the children in God's family today are adopted, by means of the spiritual birth {Romans 6:3,4; Colossians 2:11-13; Galatians 3:26,27}.

The Son must be lifted up. "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." {John 3:14,15} Moses lifted a brazen serpent up on a pole in order to save the children of Israel from being bitten by serpents sent by God {Numbers 21}. All who looked on the brazen serpent would recover from their bites. In a similar way, all men who look up to Christ's cross can be saved from their sins {Romans 8:1}. Unless God's Son had been lifted up on that tree long ago, we would still be in our sins and lost. One needs to always look for the "shadows" and "anti-types" woven into the fabric of the Old Testament. God "foreshadowed" in many different places how He would bring about the salvation for sinful men. Christ was the final piece in God's scheme of redemption.

I must decrease. "He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:29,30) John the Baptist was the forerunner sent to prepare the way of the Lord {Isaiah 40:3}. John fully understood that, when Jesus began His personal ministry, his work would fade from view. John was willing to fade into the background (he was about to be slain) and allow Jesus to take center stage. John was humble and submissive to God's design. This was God's plan from the beginning; and John accepted and completed his mission. Now, the rest is up to each to make their choice—a MUST to obey if one desires salvation! ***