

Believing the Gospel is a Work of God in Us
John 3:11-12

1. In these verses, we see a _____ in conversation between Nicodemus and Christ. Christ speaks to the _____ of Nicodemus.

John 3:11

2. Jesus builds the case for His _____ and truthfulness.

John 8:38

This should remind us of the _____ of Christ.

Jesus is contrasting the _____ of what the Pharisees and rulers conjured up, with the absolute _____ of God spoken through the God-man.

3. The comparison of knowledge bases led to a radical difference in _____ and the condemnation of Nicodemus.

John 1:14, 17; 4:23; 5:33; 8:31-32; 14:6; 15:26; 16:13; 17:17

-We must see God's word as the only _____ and _____ truth available and of absolute _____ for life.

4. The necessity of _____ and _____.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

5. Jesus continues to show Nicodemus his _____ and disbelief by giving _____ of what he has already tried to show him.

John 3:12

Remember or learn from Matthew Henry in his Complete Commentary:

- a. The doctrine of the gospel is _____.
- b. Be _____ for the condescension of Christ.

He speaks to us in things we know, stories, things seen and even the _____.

- c. To _____ of the corruption of our nature. Our great inability to receive and entertain the _____ of Christ.

JC Ryle's consideration of _____ as an earthly thing:

“God comes down to man and dwells in him upon earth. It is a change of which even the men of this world have some faint inkling and which can be illustrated by such earthly figures as water and wind.” Page 151

Or his consideration of _____ as a heavenly thing:

“The transaction that was done for man, and of which, the special effect is on man's position before God in heaven... Christ takes up man's nature as man's representative, and as man's forerunner goes up into heaven.” Page 151

6. Although this passage contains pointed teaching against unbelief and rebuke, we can learn some valuable things for our benefit:

Calvin's encouragement in his commentary on page 118:

1. “Those who reject the gospel, will not _____ impunity since the truth of God is holy and sacred.”
2. “Let not our faith in the gospel be _____, if it have few disciples on the earth.”
3. “The gospel loses nothing on account of the _____ of men.”