



- Up Words # 30

## The Salvation of Saint Nick



Historical accounts of Saint Nicholas abound and many cannot be verified, however it appears that Nicholas was born in 270 AD in the village of Patara on the southern coast of what is modern-day Turkey. His wealthy parents, who apparently raised him in the Christian faith, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Legend has it that Nicholas felt compelled to obey Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," and therefore used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and became

known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need and his love for children. After his death in 343 AD he was declared a "saint." Indeed it seems Saint Nicholas was a wonderful and generous man, but does that make him truly saved? Consider with me the biblical record of "Saint Nick."

He was a wonderful man. One respected by his community, highly regarded and admired by many. He was well informed about the things of God and taught others from the sacred scriptures. He was committed to studying and curious about all that the Scriptures revealed. He was no doubt a model citizen and exemplary church member. If there ever were a "saint" he would certainly qualify. Yet he was a "saint" who needed salvation!

In John 3:7 Jesus said to old "Saint Nick," "You must be born again." Oh, we know him more often as Nicodemus but I wouldn't be surprised if his friends, family and coworkers called him simply "Nick," and, as far as Jewish standards were concerned, he was a saint. But Jesus said Nick needed to be born again.

The reality is this: "You must be born again" in order to be truly and properly connected to God. Jesus did not accept Nick's religious background or devotion to service as good enough to merit God's favor. No one is good enough! You and I may be generous, kind, compassionate and a good example just like Saint Nick, but what we really need is to accept Christ as our Savior and be genuinely born again; just like Nicodemus.

"Saint Nick" was saved when he encountered and put his faith in the one and only Savior, Jesus Christ. Have you?

Looking Up!

Pastor Chuck Circle