

The Seven “Musts” Found in the Gospel of John

John 3:7-30

◆**1**) Jesus Christ **must** be lifted up to die on Calvary’s cross (*John 12:34*). “As Moses lifted up the serpent...even so must the Son of man be lifted up” (*John 3:14*). The expression “lifted up” signified death by crucifixion, as the victim was literally lifted up and suspended between earth and heaven (*John 12:32-33*). Not only was death by crucifixion essential for our salvation, but it also was essential because the Scriptures must be fulfilled (*Psalms 22: Zech. 12:10*).

◆**2**) Jesus Christ **must** rise again from the dead (*John 20:9*). Christ had previously predicted that He must rise again (*Matt. 16:21; 17:9,22-23*). Christ’s death without His resurrection is not a message of good news. A dead Saviour can save no one.

◆**3**) Sinful men **must** be born again (*John 3:7*). The new birth is essential because our first birth was a disaster. We were born in sin (*Psalms 51:5*) and were spiritually dead (*Eph. 2:1*), alienated from the life of God (*Eph. 4:18*). The new life must begin with a new birth (*John 3:5; Tit. 3:5*).

◆**4**) Believers **must** worship God in spirit and in truth (*John 4:24*). Only those spiritually alive by the new birth can connect with the living God and relate to Him on a spiritual level.

◆**5**) The Lord Jesus **must** increase; I must decrease (*John 3:30*). Those who are wrapped up in themselves make a very small package. The hymnwriter stated it well: “Him exalting, self abasing, this is victory” (Kate Williams).

◆**6**) God’s plan is that Samaritans and Gentiles **must** be saved (*John 4:4; 10:16*). God will unite Jews and Gentiles together into one body, into one fold, under one Shepherd.

◆**7**) As was true of Christ, believers **must** work while it is day (*John 9:4; 12:35-36*). Life’s day is swiftly passing and our service on earth will soon be over.

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org

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