

## LOOK UP AND LIVE

### John 3:14-17; Numbers 21:5-9

**Introduction:** Who likes snakes - serpents? God's people (Israel) had quite an experience with them once. Israel had been delivered from bondage in Egypt and God had been taking care of their needs as they were on their through wilderness and such and they began to complain about a lot of things that God wasn't doing and was doing that they didn't like. So - God got their attention by sending serpents - snakes, poisonous ones. A lot of people died and finally God sent them relief in a very strange way - another serpent, but this one was made of brass and up on the top of a pole.

1. It wasn't what the people saw that brought healing from a serpent bite, but the FAITH that caused them to look. It wasn't a natural process of improvement or by a gradual improvement, but it was INSTANTANEOUS!
  - The moment Faith turned their eyes upward to the serpent, healing came.
2. There were seven (7) things Israel was told NOT to do:
  - Not to manufacture healing ointment - use their own remedies.
  - Not to minister to others bitten while they had been bitten themselves (blind leading the blind).
  - Not to fight/kill the serpents for if they had already bitten anyone, they would die anyhow.
  - Not to offer sacrifices to the brass serpent on the pole.
  - Not to pray to the serpent on the pole.
  - Not to look at Moses for healing for he couldn't heal them.
  - Not to look at their serpent bites, feeling sorry for themselves.
3. God's actions toward mankind reveals His attitude toward mankind.
  - God's love prompted His action.
  - God is gracious and merciful.
4. Israel had ONLY to look at the serpent on the pole in FAITH and God brought instant healing.

### TEXT AGAIN

5. When desperate, all has failed, the "serpent" is still biting and death is coming, eyes blur in death, the sands of time are crumbling beneath the feet, eternity looms before you, WHAT shall be held up before YOUR eyes?
  - As a man/woman lies dying it is not a time for mockery or "I told you so" - What shall we hold up before him/her?
  - How does one lift up Jesus Christ? A picture? An image? A glass of wine? A wafer? A cross?
6. **Acts 2:14-36** - Peter lifted Jesus Christ up and thousands were saved. How did Peter lift Jesus up? He exalted Jesus Christ - to exalt is to lift up!
7. **Romans 10:13-15** - Paul lifted Jesus Christ up and thousands were saved, Churches started - how? Paul preached and taught about Jesus Christ.

8. It is by FAITH that one sees the exalted Jesus.
  - Not by natural sight - not by pictures - not images BUT FAITH.
9. What is saving faith? What is it to believe?
  - It is to trust in Jesus - to confide in Him - to commit one's self to Him.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. We are to lift up NOTHING else but Jesus Christ.
2. We are to lift up Jesus Christ in total reliance upon the Holy Spirit.
3. All the songs, sermons, dramas in the world are nothing more than that when the Holy Spirit is left out for only man is glorified - not the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. With the power of the Holy Spirit, a simple tune can exalt Jesus Christ.
  - With a little two minute skit Jesus Christ can be lifted up - when the Holy Spirit is there.
  - A jumbled up sermon can raise Jesus Christ up before men - when the Holy Spirit is there.
5. TEXT - So, WHO will look and live?