

Those who Don't Believe In Christ Die In Their Sins!**John 8:12-30 Focus verses 21-24**

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I. The Biblical Background

In all these chapters which we have studied in John, he always pointed to who Jesus was and showed all the evidence which proved Jesus' divinity. In these chapters we seen rejection; animosity; heart hardness; self-righteousness; pride; stubbornness; trusting in self; etc. Jesus has said in Ch. 7:17- "If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching whether it is of God or if I speak from myself". In other word they will know the truth. When we come to the end of this text, we see the response of many people in verse 30; 'As he was saying these things many believed in him'. This is good news. Because Jesus had said in verse 24, "Unless you believe that I am he, you will die in your sins. So those believers will have everlasting light and joy.

There is a price to pay for rejecting God and what He is offering. When you reject Him, you are refusing to believe that Jesus is the Messiah sent by God. Many people believe that they will go to heaven because they tried to live a good life, but the only way to spend eternity with God is to receive Jesus Christ gift of salvation. This is what the Jewish leaders and some of those who they influenced, refused to do. We have seen in these chapters how the leaders and people responded to Jesus. This all stems from their unbelief in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Unbelief is a determined refusal to not believe. It is a condition of the unbeliever, and it evolves into spiritual blindness and a determine resistance to God.

II. The Lesson: Those Who Don't Believe in Christ Die in their Sins

1. **v.12.** This is a life changing verse if we see it for what it is—see Jesus for who He is. This verse indicates that following Jesus is more than just tagging along behind him. It means being so taken with him that you are joined to him. John 15:5- abide. Notice that when we follow Him, we have him. He says I am yours, I am your sacrifice, your living water, your Bread of Life; your God ; your Light. The life of Jesus gives the light that man needs to walk this path called life. These are not a politician's promise, like we normally hear today. He wasn't just the light for Israel but the world. If they (us) follow Him, they will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life. John 15:5. The life Jesus has and the life he shares with those who follow him gives them light. That is, we are dead and blind until the life of Jesus is imparted to us by God's

Spirit. This is a wonderful promise because what this world need most now is light for their path. People are walking in darkness. Later Jesus declares, “He that walks in darkness cannot see where they are going”. Jesus is the Word, and his word is the lamp we need to guide us throughout our journey (Ps.119:105). Like the Pharisees, there are many people who do not know where they are going and are heading for disaster and not only in this life but the life after. He will not only give light to the one that follows him, but he will be the means by which that man will see what is on his path. In the verses that follow we discern something of the darkness of the men to whom he was speaking--- darkness that was keeping them from coming to the light. Following Jesus is the condition of two promises in this verse. First followers will never walk in darkness, which is a reference to the assurance of salvation. As true followers of the Light, we will never follow the ways of sin and never live in the state of continually sinning (1Jn.1:5-7). Rather, we repent of our sin in order to stay close to the Light.

2. **vv.13-18.** What kept the Pharisees from opening their hearts to Christ: ignorance, pride and unbelief. They were ignorant because they were supposed to be the keeper of the Law and did not see that Christ had all met the burden of proof. Did they read for understanding or just read like so many do today when they read the Bible? What they were doing was rejecting Jesus because they never look at the whole mass of evidence. In Chapter 5:46, Jesus told them if they believed Moses they would believe him because Moses wrote about him. Notice how patient Jesus was in dealing with them and us. Why? **John 3:17- God sent his Son into the world, to not judge the world, but to save the world through him.** So, Jesus continued to extend grace towards them. Even if they didn't understand, they had opportunities to seek Him. Many people today are struggling with their Christian lives because they just don't believe what the Word of God says, thus they have no confidence or any awareness of who Jesus is. There is no excuse for anyone **Rom.1:20. And they were not willing to come to Him, John 5:40.**
3. **vv.19-20.** These are explosive and dangerous claims that he is making about himself and God. So, John pauses to comment in verse 20 how amazing it is that no one is stoning him or arresting him, because his hour had not yet come. He will not go until it was his time, not before. John stated in 3:19, “This is the judgment, that Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. John 16:9- “The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me”.
4. **vv.21-24.** This is as blunt or [plain as He can be. Jesus has said this before in 7:34-”You will seek me and will not find me and where I am you cannot come. So, throughout His ministry Jesus pointed to the way (Jn.5:39-40). They will die in their sins because they refuse to believe in the One that God sent because He loved them (Jn.3:16). When Jesus talked about the kingdom of God, sin and salvation, it always came with warning. In Verse 22 we see how self-righteous the Pharisees were acting. Their mockery and scorn are

obvious. They didn't need or want salvation or to be redeemed. The Jews thought the worst sin they could commit was suicide. Unbelief in the very One who, can save them is a deadly mistake. They believe the person who committed suicide would go to the farthest and darkest part of Hades forever. If you are trusting in your own rituals, morality and goodness to get into heaven think again (Rom.10:10-11); Heb.10:26-27-..If we continue to persist in deliberate sin after we have known and received the truth, there is not another sacrifice for sin to be made for us.

Hebrew 11:6b- Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists...

Picture a person who is floating on a raft, enjoying his day but from the shore you can see he is heading towards danger. You call out to him to give a warning, but he ignores you. You throw out a life preserver, but nope he ignores it and is toward to a certain death. Why won't he grab the life preserver? Because he loves what he's doing, and he does not want to believe your warning.

Here was the True Light (Jn.1:9) who has made the Father (Jn.1:18) known to them and that were rejecting him. Jesus had taken on flesh and dwelled among man to point them to the Father. Jesus, who is the light, is the embodiment of grace and truth, also brings salvation (Jn.12:35-36;46-47. This salvation comes from guidance and instruction from the light of God's works of grace (Jn.12:35,47). Those who reject the light are rejecting Jesus, who is the embodiment of grace and truth (Jn.3:14-21).

When Jesus entered on the scene as this preacher who was proclaiming a new message, the religious leaders of the day hated Him for disrupting their system. Yet the cross upon which they put him on to die became the means by which salvation was offered. I Co.1:18-20. His message was different because He offered a whole new life. These people choose not to believe in the One who only desire is to save them. John 1:5- The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not comprehend it.

The crowds were increasing yet despite all the evidence of His deity, the religious leaders turned against Him and used their authority to bring about his death. Although we may wonder how anyone could feel such animosity toward Jesus Christ, there are many today who hate even the mention of his name because he presents a narrow way to salvation. They are willing to accept the general term, God, because every religion has a god of some kind.

What we believe about Jesus is a very critical issue for us. The Bible says He is the only begotten Son of God, who set us free from sin and our rebellion against God. This belief is becoming less popular in our society today because it threatens their desires of freedom to do whatever pleases them.

The unbelieving people are warned in these verses.

1. **vv.24-27.** Jesus says to them, "You are from below. I am from above". the Pharisees were acting self-righteous and doing the work of their father, the devil (V.44). He also said to them, "Whoever belongs to God hears what God is saying. The reason they do not hear is because they do not belong to God. If you choose to be friends with the world, you are an enemy of God (Jas.4:4). 1 John 5:19 says, "the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. There is one thing that prevents you from dying and going to hell forever in an unforgiven condition. That is your faith in Jesus Christ. (Jn.14:6). The people were also being obstinate: refusing to change opinions or course despite attempts to persuade. They thought they were the representatives of God Himself because of their ancestry. They will surely die in their sin because they refuse to believe "I am" He.

The Bible is clear the only way to get into God's perfect heaven is to be perfect (pure and sinless as God Himself (Matt.5:20; Lk.18:18-22). God's perfect justice means that every sin must be punished. The penalty is death in the form of eternal separation from God in hell (Ex.32:33). This is what many people today do not want to hear anything about hell. They choose to remove God from their life by not accepting Jesus or refusing to hear the claims of Him being the One sent by God to redeem man back to Himself. No human can meet God's perfect standard without His Son Jesus coming to rescue him because we are all lost sinners (Rom.3:9-23). This amazing gift cannot be earned (Rom.3:2; Eph.2:8-9).

Jesus is earnestly telling them patiently in part: "You are going to die—everybody is—and you will die unless you lay hold of the provision God has made for the sin of mankind". But they allowed their pride to blind them and chose to reject this word because they thought they were good enough already: they thought they did not deserve any rejection from God.

2. **vv.28-30.** When we look at the **cross**, let remember the terrible evil that lurks in every human heart without exception that makes it necessary for all to lay hold of the one way out for all, which is the Lord Jesus Himself. There you will see the love of God spelled out for us, a God who could give his only Son (Rom.8:32).

III. Conclusion.

"Let Him who has ears, let him hear (Matt,11:15). Jesus is the key that keeps man out of hell (Rev.1:18). Declare with your mouth and believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord and that God raised him from the dead and you will be saved. Look too the light of this world and believe.