

## Will You Die in Your Sins?

*John 8:21-30*

**Thought for the Day.** If we reject Jesus as our Savior, we will die in our sins. But if we accept Jesus, we will live in His righteousness. (Romans 3:21-25; Ephesians 1:7-8)

In John 8:21-30, Jesus continues to repeat His claims that He is the Son of God, the promised Messiah of Israel. But, in this passage, He takes it a step farther. He makes the claim, three times, that if His listeners refuse to believe in Him—place their faith in Him—they will die in their sins. This is a very sobering message, one which we ourselves need to take to heart.

**21 So he said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come."**

- Cp. John 7:33-34. Here He adds a solemn warning that those who reject Him will die in their sin; they will not be able to join Him in the Father's presence in the glory of heaven.
- Jesus knew that, following His ascension, the Jewish people would continue to look for their Messiah, not realizing that He had already come, and that they had rejected Him.
- What does it mean to "die in sin"?
  - Those who do not receive Jesus Christ as their Savior from sin, will die with their sins unforgiven by God.
  - If we reject Jesus, there is no other hope; there is no other means of salvation from sin. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)
  - They will suffer the full consequences of their sins—physical death, spiritual death, and eternal death: "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).
  - They will spend all of eternity separated from God and the blessings of heaven.
- "It is a solemn truth! Those who refuse to accept the Lord Jesus have no hope of heaven. How dreadful to die in one's sins, without God, without Christ, without hope forever!" (MacDonald, p. 2134)

**22 So the Jews said, "Will he kill himself, since he says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?"**

- "The Jews abhorred suicide, and believed that those who killed themselves went to the blackest part of hell.... Since they assumed that they were going to heaven, the Jews mockingly suggested that Jesus must be speaking of killing Himself, in which case He would go to hell. Smugly confident in their self-righteousness, they were not just deaf to Jesus' words, but they mockingly, blasphemously twisted their meaning." (*The MacArthur New Testament Commentary*)
- It is ironic that it was Jesus who would be going to heaven, and they who would be going to hell!
- They just simply could not and would not believe that He was the Son of God who came from heaven and would soon be returning there.

**23 He said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world."**

- They could only think in terms of earthly, physical realities; could only rationalize according to the thinking of this world. (Cp. 1 Cor. 2:14-15; Isa. 55:8-9)

- God has revealed His thoughts to us through the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Written Word, the Bible. We must continually submit our human thoughts and reasonings to the clear revelation of God's Word.
- By God's grace and mercy, when we accept Jesus as our Savior, we are born from above (John 3:3,7). We, too, are no longer of this world. God gives us His Holy Spirit who enables us to understand His thoughts as revealed in and through His Word. As we fix our eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in the Word, the Holy Spirit transforms us from the inside out so that, more and more, we begin to reflect the character and conduct of the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 3:17-18)

**24 I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins."**

- Jesus is once again identifying Himself as Jehovah God, Yahweh, of the Old Testament. (Exodus 3:14; Deuteronomy 32:39; Isaiah 43:10)
- In order for us to not die in our sins, we must believe that Jesus is "I AM", that He is fully God in human flesh!
- "Jesus often used repetition for emphasis. Here He solemnly warned them again that they would die in their sins. If they steadfastly refused to believe on Him, there was no alternative. Apart from the Lord Jesus, there is no way to obtain forgiveness of sins, and those who die with sins unforgiven cannot possibly enter heaven at last. The word 'He' is not found in this verse in the original, though it may be implied. It reads literally: 'If you do not believe that I am, you will die in your sins.' We see in the words 'I am' another claim to deity by the Lord Jesus." (*MacDonald, pp. 2134-35*)

**25 So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning.**

- Jesus had told them repeatedly that He was the Messiah, the Son of God, and His miracles proved His claims. Their stubborn hearts refused to believe the truth!

**26 I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him."**

- "Instead of continuing an argument with these religious leaders who had already made up their minds not to believe, Jesus would say no more in condemnation. Rather, he would speak only what the Father told him to say—and he would speak, not just to the Jews, but to the world. And whatever he says is the Father's word; thus it is true, reliable, and valid." (*The Life Application Commentary Series*)

**27 They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father.**

- Their minds were becoming more clouded as their wilfull unbelief darkened their hearts.

**28 So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.**

- Christ's death and resurrection would vindicate His claims that He was the Messiah, the Son of God, that He had spoken the very words of His Heavenly Father and had delivered the message He had been sent to proclaim.

**29 And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him." 30 As he was saying these things, many believed in him.**