

The Gospel of John

8:21-32

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John.
As with this study and all bible studies, remember to pray before you start.

✠ **John 8:21** *Then Jesus said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come."*

Wow, a pretty hefty statement for Jesus here. When we think of Jesus we think of love and compassion and to hear Jesus say, "you will die in your sins." Wow is all I could think to say. But the sad thing is that Jesus' words are true. Jesus was telling them that He was going to die for them, but they would not believe, therefore they would never inherit the kingdom of God.

There are so many trying to get to heaven today, but not many will make it, because they are trying to get there by their own means and not through Jesus who is the ONLY way to heaven.

"You are so narrow minded" you say.

The bible says.

✠ **Luke 13:24** *Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.*

✠ **Matt 7:13-14** *Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

So yes, I am narrow minded, but then that's how we enter the kingdom of God!

✠ **John 8:22** *So the Jews said, "Will He kill Himself, because He says, 'Where I go you cannot come'?"*

The Jews figured that Jesus would kill himself and therefore go to hell because they thought that they were going to heaven. But the truth was that they were committing spiritual suicide by refusing to believe in Jesus. Sure, they had all of God's word, but they didn't believe it. If they had they would have believed in Jesus.

Many do believe in this man named Jesus. They know Him as a baby in the manger on Christmas and as some guy who died on the cross and rose from the dead on Easter. They see Him as a man on a cross that they were around their necks. But they don't see Jesus

as God and as their Savior. Once again they don't see Jesus as the only way to heaven, but instead just another reason to have time off from work with pay, or just another reason to have a party or as a decoration around their neck.

✠ **John 8:23-24** *And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."*

Another big and true statement by Jesus *"You are from beneath. You are of this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."*

Where is this beneath?

Jesus tells a story of a man named Lazarus and a rich man. In this story they both died with Lazarus going to Abraham's bosom and the rich man going to Hades or hell.

✠ **Luke 16:22-23** *So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*

We know that Hades or hell is in the center of the earth based upon:

✠ **Rev 20:13-14** *The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

"So what happen to those who were in Abraham's bosom?"

Jesus delivered those when He died and rose from the dead.

✠ **Eph 4:9-10** *Now this, "He ascended"--what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.*

So when Jesus is speaking of them being from beneath or below He is telling them that their teachings and way of life is from the pit of hell itself. Why, because their teaching didn't bring life, but rather brought death to those who followed after their teachings. If any teaching or religions tells you that you have to do something other than believe in Jesus, then this is also teaching from the pit of hell. Because they are proclaiming a false hope and death to those who follow after them.

Only when everlasting life through Jesus Christ is taught, will you know that you are in the right place that teaches God's word and not man's. We know this based upon verse 24.

✠ ***Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.***

If you are being taught that the way to heaven is by knocking on doors, riding your bike, the number of those who you preach to, the size of your church or home group, how much money you give each week to the church, how many poor and needy you minister to throughout your life time, the way you dress, or even if you are baptized. Not one of these are taught in the bible as required for salvation. Now they are all taught (except for riding your bike) and they are things we should be doing, but the bible does not say anywhere that they are required to obtain salvation. This includes baptism, we have gone over this before, but just remember that baptism is a symbol of your faith in Jesus, but not a requirement to get to heaven. Let me also say that if you are a believer and have not been baptized, I would encourage you to do so, not because I think you should, but because Jesus said to!

✠ ***John 8:25-29 Then they said to Him, "Who are You?" And Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning. I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him." They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father. Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."***

"Who are You?" or as others say today, ***"Who is this Jesus"***

A question we all need to ask ourselves even as Christians. Who is Jesus to you?

Is He a provider in your time of need? The answer is no He is not; Jesus is always your provider even when you think you don't need Him or His help.

Is Jesus your Savior? The answer once again is no, He is not just your Savior, but the Savior of the world, this includes your neighbors and those people you may not even like.

We tend to take Jesus and put Him in this little box, keeping Him all to ourselves and only calling upon Him when we need Him. We tend to forget that He died for the world, not just us or those we like.

We are called to be the light of the world.

✠ ***Matt 5:14 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.***

And we say that God's word is a light to our path.

✠ ***Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.***

At night if you are walking down the street, when do you turn the flashlight off? When there is no more darkness. We are walking in this dark world, but we seem to turn the light off and on all the time. We turn it on when we are around other Christians, and then turn it off when we step out into the world. When we turn the light off that is when we stumble and fall.

Would you walk into a lighted room and turn on a flashlight, then turn it off when we walk out the door at night? Sounds stupid, but that's what we do as Christians. We make sure other Christians in the church know we are Christians and turn our light up full blast, but when we walk out of the church and go to our homes or jobs or even the store. We turn the light off or hide it.

Those in darkness need the light, not those who are in the room that is fully lit.

† **Mark 2:17** *When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, **they that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.***

We are called to be a light to the world, not to the church.

† **Matt 5:14** ***You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.***

Let others know Who Jesus really is according to the bible, not the one you have put in a box.

So the Jews wanted to know who Jesus was. He answered them.

✚ ***And Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning. I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him."***

Starting from chapter one up until now, Jesus has been proclaiming who He is. They heard Jesus' words but they didn't listen to what He was saying.

Have you ever been in a meeting or been at a seminar, or watched a show on TV, or listened to some of these talk radio programs that someone else put on? You start to tune them out as your mind wanders because you are not interested in what the person is saying. That's what was happening with these Jews. Sure they talked or should I say argued with Jesus. But they didn't care what He said; they thought that they were right, so they would tune Jesus out. We know this because if they had listened to Jesus, they never would have had Him crucified.

Jesus says to them that, ***I have many things to say and to judge concerning you.*** This was because of their unbelief in Him. After all, they studied God's word, but didn't know the Author when He was right there in front of them.

† **John 1:10-11** *He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.*

Jesus goes on to say.

✠ *Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."*

Jesus now tells them how He will die.

✠ **John 12:32-33** *"And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." This He said, signifying by what death He would die.*

Have you ever felt like the Lord wasn't with you? Usually the times we feel like this, is when we have fallen into sin. But we tend to forget that the Lord will forgive us if we just ask Him. But in our shame we try to hide from Him.

If you really want to please God, then come to Jesus and confess your sins to Him and you WILL be forgiven and this is pleasing to the Lord. Also as you believe in Jesus, God will never leave you nor forsake you!

† **Heb 13:5-6** *Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say:
"The LORD is my helper;
I will not fear.
What can man do to me?"*

Man cannot help you, no matter what the commercials say. Only in God will you find true comfort, peace and acceptance. Man cannot cleanse you of your sins nor get you to heaven, only Jesus can!

✠ **John 8:30** *As He spoke these words, many believed in Him.*

If you have gone through these studies, you have read Jesus' words right from the bible. You can take everything else that I have written and cast it all away. But the question is, as you have read Jesus' words, do you now believe in Him? Once again, not because of my words, but because of Jesus' words.

You can read all the bible studies and books you want, but you will only find true salvation and peace in God's word only.

† **Luke 4:4** *But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"*

- † **Luke 11:28** *But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"*
- † **1 Thess 2:13** *For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.*
- † **Romans 10:17** *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

Not man's word, but God's word!
 Keeping this in mind, read the next verses.

- † **Acts 2:21** *And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.'*
- † **Romans 10:9** *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*
- † **John 3:16-17** *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

So you have just read in three different places in the bible how to be saved.
 Once again, these are not my words but the Lord's, straight from the bible.

So as the Lord says, are you one that **calls on the name of the LORD**
 Will you *confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead,*
 And are you one that *believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. That the world through Him might be saved.*

Calling is simply praying to God.
 Confession is telling God that you messed up and have sinned. Confession is also telling others about Jesus.
 Believing in Jesus that He died for your sins and rose from the dead.

You can argue all you want about who Cain's wife was and where she came from. You can question the existence of dinosaurs (Which are mentioned in the bible in the book of Job), you can try to split hairs comparing the four gospels, but when you get to heaven God will not ask you about any of these things. He just wants to know if you believed in His Son Jesus, not if you knew where Cain's wife came from or if Adam had a belly button.

So how do you do these things that the bible said to be saved?
Simply with a prayer: ***That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.***
Just like this one.

Jesus, I admit I am a sinner and I confess this to You right now. I ask You to please forgive me for my sins. I believe that You died on the cross for all my sins and rose from the dead and are right now at the right hand of the Father. Thank You Jesus for saving me, now may You please fill me with Your Holy Spirit and may I tell others about You. I ask this in Your name Jesus. AMEN!

That's all it takes, just simply talking to God in faith and believing that His word is true. So what do you do now? Well one thing we just read was: ***if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus.*** Which means to go tell someone what you just did.

Also start reading your bible, I would suggest to start right here in the book of John. Also find a good bible teaching church to go to, and continue to pray everyday. May I also say, welcome to the family of God!

Jesus also tells you what to do in the next verses.

✠ ***John 8:31-32 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."***

Notice Jesus was speaking to those who believed, but as we read on, the other Jews have to try and interfere with Jesus' teaching.

We will get to this next week, but one thing we need to notice is that if you are a Christian that you will no longer live like the world. ***If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.***

I remember before I was saved, that I would cuss a lot; in fact, my mouth was so foul that I would make sailors blush. Every other word was a curse word.

But the day I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior, I cussed four times the remainder of that day and have not cussed since (over 35 years ago).

You will also notice that you will not feel comfortable watching "R" or even "PG13" rated movies. Even TV shows that you once watched seem to not be that funny anymore, in fact they make you want to change the channel because of the things they say and imply.

The music you listened to is no longer that exciting and as you sing along you start to know why. You start to realize that all these things you once enjoyed in the world are all the sins that Jesus died for.

You may think that this sounds like Christians are boring and never have any fun.

Making others blush from foul language is fun?

Listening to a comedian curse and use the Lord's name in vain and degrade women is fun?

Watching others have sex in movies is not fun nor is there any fun in listening to others joke about it on TV, nor is it fun to have my children learn about sex from the TV. These are normal channels, not pay per view channels.

Waking up with a hangover or wondering who that person is next to you in bed is fun?
Waking up in jail because you were drunk and you just found out that you hit another car putting others in the hospital or even killing them is fun?

If you call any of that fun, I would rather not be a part of your fun.

My children do not have bad dreams, because the evil, scary shows are not watched nor allowed in my home.

No hangover in the mornings, no throwing up or wasting my Sunday feeling sick from too much partying on Saturday night.

The songs I sing do not degrade women, my parents or my friends. The lift me up as I lift up my Lord and Savior in song.

I never have to worry about my friends taking advantage of me or not being there when I need them. They don't use me for their drug or alcohol fix or for sex.

I could go on and on, but the truth is there is no real fun in sin, only embarrassment, shame, worries and death.

I challenge you to try Christian fun for a month. What could it hurt!

The results will be what Jesus said in verse 32.

 *"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

How many years have you been living a lie? Today is the day you can be free from all those lies. Jesus died to set you free from those lies and sins you have lived with all your life. It's up to you whether you will accept this freedom or stay trapped in your lifestyle of sin.

Next week we will read of the Jews trying to get into this conversation between Jesus and the believers.

May God richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy and may you really have fun in your new life in Jesus Christ! AMEN!!!