

If You Abide in My Word John 8:21-32

With the Temple in Jerusalem as His backdrop, Jesus tore at the heart of the Jewish mind in challenging them concerning His witness and His teachings.

The only hope of salvation would be found in believing that Jesus was the Christ and without this acceptance, they would die in their sins.

John 8:21-29 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."

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

He said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins."

So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning. 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." They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father.

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. 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."

The teaching of Jesus struck the hearts of some and the record says

John 8:30-32 As he was saying these things, many believed in him. So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "**If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**"

Jesus Shows the Nature of Being a Disciple of the Son of God.

There will be a need to abide in Him and in His teachings.

An attitude of "What you say, I will do."

Luke 5:5 And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets."

A price is paid to be a disciple of Christ.

Luke 14:26-27 If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:33 So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The cost to be a disciple is outweighed by the blessings found in Christ.

The power of truth will change the life of every man who comes to the Lord because found in this truth is what all men desire - freedom.

Truth will bring freedom from the bonds of hopelessness and despair.

These blessings can only be found - IF - one abides in the word.

The idea of abiding is that of dwelling, to tarry or to remain.

Many believed in Jesus but we find

John 12:42-43 Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

A constant continuance is needed to find the blessings of Christ.

If one abides (continues) in the word of God salvation is found.

James 1:21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

The word teaches the character of discipleship.

Jesus Also Shows the Requirement to Be His Disciple

John 15:1-8 I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

A disciple of Christ understands truth and finds blessings of knowing truth.

Truth is the word of God

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

And sets us free from the doctrines of men

Matthew 15:7-9 You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

Abiding in the word of Christ produces godliness

Titus 1:1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness,

That sets man free from sin.

1Timothy 4:16 Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

1Timothy 4:7-8 Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

Found in the church of Christ is truth

Ephesians 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit--just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call--

Ephesians 1:22-23 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

2Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Giving freedom from the denominational dogmas of men

The blessing of truth is found in the Holy Spirit

John 16:23 In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.

John 15:26 But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

Received at baptism

Acts 2:38-39 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

Giving us freedom from the spirit of this world

1Corinthians 2:11-12 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

Romans 8:14-17 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Abiding in the word of truth gives man the knowledge of true worship.

John 4:21-24 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

These Blessings Can Only Be Found in Jesus Christ.

Abiding in the word of truth brings about these changes in life and secures the hope and promise of salvation.

How does one enjoy these blessings in Christ?

Matthew 7:21 Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Mark 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

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