

Simply Christ
Gospel Newsletter
Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

October 2, 2021

How to Die in Your Sin

Jesus made an astounding statement to the devout Jews he conversed with. He said, *"...if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."*

John 8:24. Compare this statement with the common belief today that we will all be sinners until we die, believer or unbeliever! We are told that salvation will not change this. Jesus Christ does not change this. Until we lay down this mortal body we will be sinners and continue to sin. In other words, "We will all die in our sins." This sounds right enough except for this one thing: **Jesus was speaking to unbelievers when he said, "You shall die in your sins"?**

Jesus spoke these words to the most zealous of the Jews. They would spend their entire lifetime seeking to keep the Law of Moses perfectly. Some were like the Apostle Paul before his conversion to Christ who said, *"touching the righteousness which is in the law, (he was) blameless."* Philippians 3:6. Jesus' words to these devout Jews were extremely harsh because His message was that all their efforts at righteousness would end in failure. When they took their last breath, they would still be sinners.

Jesus' basis for this statement was simply, *"If you believe not that I am he."* Those whom he spoke

these words to were very studious concerning the scripture. They held to the words of Moses and the prophets. Their walk with God as they understood it was very important to them. Yet they refused to believe that Jesus was in fact their Messiah, the Christ, of whom Moses and the prophets spoke of. Because of this unbelief, all their dedication, worship, and religious activity would profit them nothing.

Jesus had already told these “seekers” something difficult to understand. He said to them, *“Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me...”* John 7:34. How is it possible that a person can seek the Lord, but not find the Lord? The answer is found in his statement *“If you believe not that I am he.”* These believed in the promise of the Messiah. They diligently sought God and prayed for Christ to come, as many Jews do unto this day. They were totally convinced that they loved Christ, but they refused to believe that Jesus was in fact *“He,”* the Christ. Therefore, they fulfilled Jesus’ words that they would seek him (Christ) and not find him. They thought themselves to be spiritual, but their unbelief was damning their souls.

This same spirit of unbelief possesses many in the church today. They profess absolute faith in Jesus Christ. They truly believe that they believe in him. It’s just that they refuse to believe the testimony of the scripture concerning Jesus Christ. One example is Gabriel’s prophecy of Christ which was given to Daniel. Gabriel tells us Messiah would come *“to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to*

bring in everlasting righteousness" Daniel 9:24.

Almost universally, Christians accept that Jesus Christ made "*reconciliation for iniquity*" for us on the cross, but are quick to reject that he made "*an end of sins*" in us through his death. Another example is those who readily believe that Jesus died for our sin, but are just as ready to reject the words of the Apostle John that "*he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not.*" |

John 3:5-6. This selective believing is like the Jews who claimed to believe the promise of Christ, but refused to believe "*Jesus is the Christ*" | John 5:1. **The truth they believed was disannulled by the truth they refused to believe.**

It is not the believer, but the unbeliever who will die in their sins. Jesus confirms this when speaking of the Holy Ghost which would "*reprove the world of sin.*" He says, "*Of sin, because they believe not on me.*" John 16:9. The only power sin has to remain in the heart or life of any person is through the power of "unbelief." It is obvious that the person who rejects the words of Jesus that "*the truth shall make you free*" John 8:32, will never be free. The power of their "*unbelief*" disannuls the power of what they claim to believe. It is easy to die in your sin. All you must do is reject that Jesus suffered and died to take away your sin and make you free. If you do that you will successfully die in your sins. On the other hand, you can believe the truth of Christ and be made free!