

The Light of the World Reveals the Nature of His True Followers

John 8:30-59

January 29, 2023

1. Those who have believed in Jesus have a new relationship with the Word – abiding (30-32).
 - a. “Remain” comes from the Greek word “meno” meaning “dwell” or “abide” (cf. 15:1-5).
 - i. Once we believe in Jesus, the living Word, abides in us, and we abide in Him!
 - ii. True disciples are those who have an “abiding” relationship with Christ (cf.15:4).
 - b. Before faith in Christ, the Word condemned us; after faith in Christ, the Word frees us (32; Romans 6:6-18).
 - c. Before faith in Christ, the Word exposed us; after faith in Christ the Word becomes a means of grace and enablement (cf. 1:14-17).
2. Those who have not believed in Christ remain slaves to sin (33-37).
 - a. Unbelievers are unaware of their slavery to sin (33).
 - i. Unbelievers find their security apart from Christ, such as religion, heritage, perceived goodness.
 - b. Jesus points out that our sin is what enslaves us (34).
 - i. Our sinful actions reveal that that we’ve been deceived and enslaved.
 - ii. Romans 6:16 “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness.”
 - c. Slaves don’t have a family relationship with the Father (35).
 - i. Before placing our faith in Christ, God is our Judge, and we stand condemned before Him (cf. 3:18).
 - ii. After placing our faith in Christ, God is our Father, and we are His sons; this relationship is eternal.
 - d. Jesus is the one who turns slaves into sons (36).
 - i. For the son of God, sin’s penalty has been paid (John 19:30).
 - ii. For the son of God, sin’s power has been broken (Romans 6:14).
 - e. Each of us have a choice to make (37).
 - i. Slaves become sons by belief in Jesus’s Word (37a; cf. Romans 10:17)
 - ii. Slaves remain slaves by their rejection of the claims of Jesus Christ (37b).
3. Those who have not believed in Christ are not the sons of God (38-47).
 - a. The father of the unbeliever is not the Father of Jesus (38).
 - b. The Jews had a physical relationship with Abraham, but they did not share the faith of Abraham (39; cf. Romans 4:1-5).
 - c. Abraham believed and obeyed the word of God; the Jews heard and rejected the Word of the Son of God (40).
 - d. Jesus makes it clear that those who do not believe His message do not have a relationship with God (41-42).
 - e. Their refusal to believe Jesus’s Word reveals that they are slaves to their father the devil (43-47).
4. Those who refuse to believe that Jesus is God are the enemies of God (48-59).
 - a. Rejecting Jesus results in rejecting His promise of eternal life (48-52).
 - b. Rejecting Jesus reveals that you do not know God (53-59).

Conclusion:

1. What is your relationship to the Word of God? Does it condemn you, or does it form the foundation of your faith?
2. Are you still a slave to sin, or have you been set free from the bondage and penalty of your sin?
3. Do you have the assurance of eternal life?