



# IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

**SERIES: JOHN (GOSPEL OF TRUTH)**

**LESSON: UP FROM SLAVERY**

**JOHN 8:31-38**

**MAY 16, 2021**

## **MAIN POINT**

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To reveal the difference between giving mental assent to Jesus and being a true Believer.

## **JOHN CONTEXT**

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Every lesson's purpose: "but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John 20:31

# INTRODUCTION

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**Do you know someone who believes they are a Christian, yet, deep down, you wonder if they really are?**

A woman said, "I know my son is a Christian. I asked him if he believed in Jesus and he said yes. After all, the Bible says, 'whoever believes in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ shall be saved.'"

**What do you think about what she said?**

**How would you have responded to her?**

**Do you know people who believe in Jesus as a historical figure, but show no evidence of personal salvation?**

There is a vast difference between a mental understanding that Jesus came, died and rose again and in actually putting your trust in Jesus for your salvation. Scripture says the devil believes and trembles, but we know he neither has, nor wants, eternal life in heaven. (James 2:19) He chose to leave heaven long ago.

In our lesson today, Jesus shows us how to know we are truly redeemed and headed toward heaven. A clear understanding of this lesson's truth is a matter of life and death for all of us and for those whose paths we cross.

**Can anyone remind us of the context here? Where was Jesus? Who was Jesus talking to?**

From the lessons we've already had in John 8, we know that Jesus went to the Temple. It was early morning and his teaching gathered a crowd, including scribes and Pharisees.

*John 8:2 "At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them."*

When they brought an adulterous woman to him, he merely said, "Let him without sin throw the first stone at her." One by one they turned and left. They were trying to test him, but they themselves, were obviously humiliated.

In verse 12 he said he was the Light of the World and could give them light. Again, they were humiliated.

Verse 21 tells us he completely confused them by saying he was from above, but they were from below.

In spite of all this and his continued point out of their failures, we are told in verse 30 that many believed in him.

**John 8:30** *“Even as he spoke, many put their faith in him.”*

This is where our lesson begins today.

## **EXPLANATION // ...believe Jesus is the Christ...**

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HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 8:31-39

**v. 31** *“Jesus said to those Jews who had believed in Him.”*

**They are called “believers” in verse 31, but they were true Believers? Discuss why or why not.**

Have someone read v. 37

Believing in Jesus intellectually is absolutely necessary to salvation, but not enough. Some might say, “I see that chair, I believe it could hold me up, but I’m sure not going to sit in it!” That person doesn’t doubt the reality of the chair, but he sure doesn’t trust that chair.

**What more is there necessary for a person to become a Christian?**

**Salvation always takes more than mental understanding. It takes a commitment. It is a decisive step from believing who Jesus is, to putting all our faith for eternity in his death for us.**

Notice in verse 31 we find the word **IF**. This tells us condition. Let’s look to see what the condition is and the rewards of fulfilling that condition.

“If you ABIDE in my word...”

**What does the word ABIDE mean?**

**ABIDE...** *“meno” to stay, to remain in, continue in, rest in. To settle down and be at home. We must take a settled position in what we believe.*

**In what does Jesus say they were to “abide”?**

**MY WORD...** *“logos”*

**Is Jesus referring to the Bible?**

Remember, at that time, only the Old Testament was available. These Jewish leaders definitely knew the Old Testament and legalistically followed it. The question is, did they believe Jesus was who he said he was? Did they believe he was truly the Messiah?

**One meaning of Logos is “discourse”. How might this clarify our understanding of Jesus’ meaning?**

Jesus, at this time, was telling these Jewish leaders that they must “Hold fast to my teachings and live in accordance to them”. AMPC

Then Jesus gives three rewards of ABIDING in His word. Let’s find them in verses 31-32.

“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, continue in it and commit to it...

1. **You will... *be my true disciples.***

*You will be a genuine learner and follower of me.*

2. **You will... *know the truth.***

*You will know, through personal experience, what is true*

3. **The truth will... *set you free***

*Only in knowing the truth about who Jesus is and trusting he is who he claims to be, the Messiah, can one find real freedom.*

**What is freedom? Freedom from what?**

Notice their response in v. 33

### **What do you think their attitude was?**

In John the Jewish leaders are seen as antagonistic to Jesus. He was a threat to them and their legalistic “religion”. Their response in v. 33 reveals this resistance and arrogance. They reminded him that they were offspring of Abraham and had NEVER been enslaved to anyone! After all, they reminded him, they were Abraham’s descendants.

### **Was it true that Israel had never been enslaved? (What about Egypt, Babylon, Assyria?)**

### **What kind of slavery were they referring to and was Jesus referring to?**

Have someone read v 34-36

*“Truly, truly I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; so if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”*

### **Does this verse indicate that true believers do not sin? (Discuss the sins we often feel are “acceptable” for Christians.)**

### **What words in this verse show the difference in a Christian who sins and an unbeliever?**

### **“To practice sin...”. Discuss what it means to “practice sin.”**

We all sin. However, we, as Christians, have the power to decide against sin through the Holy Spirit who lives within us.

### **A true Christian**

- Will be deeply convicted over his sin
- Will be able, through the Holy Spirit, to say no to sin, and
- Sin will not be the habit, or practice, of his life

### **What is meant by being a slave to sin?**

Doulos, slave, means someone who belongs to another person. We all are, in a sense, slaves to someone. The true Christian has committed himself to follow Jesus. He has chosen to be a follower of Christ. A non-Christian, even one who thinks he’s a Christian but has never committed, surrendered his life to Christ, is a slave to sin. Satan is the father of sin. What was Jesus really saying about them?

### **DISCUSS... There were slaves to sin, but what else do we see in verse 35-37?**

(no security, no permanent home, no family)

## DISCUSS

As sons and daughters of the Heavenly Father, how are our lives different from theirs?

- We have security

Romans 8:38-39 *“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, or height nor depth, not anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

- We have an inheritance in heaven

1 Peter 1:3-5 *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who by his mercies has caused us to... and inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you...”*

- We are part of the family of God

Romans 8:15 *“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!”*

- We have freedom (vs. 36)

Galatians 5:1 *“For freedom, Christ has set us free.”*

Have someone read vs 37-38

How does this verse prove these Jewish men were not true believers?

## APPLICATION // ...have life in His name.

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The application of this lesson is vitally important. Please don't skip it or rush over it carelessly.

What difference do these words from John 8 mean for us? **DISCUSS**

- Do we need to examine our own belief in Jesus as the Son of God?
- Do we believe only in our minds or is Jesus making a daily difference in our lives?
- Are we absolutely confident, without doubt, that we have taken a position of abiding in Christ?
- How aware are we of those around us who show no indication of a life committed to Christ?
- What will we commit to do about that?

## **PRAYER**

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Close in prayer, asking God to press this truth that was studied.

## **COMMENTARY / RESOURCES**

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See previously distributed Holman Commentary.

Other recommendation: Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary: Exalting Jesus in John