

Who Are The Children Of God

John 8:31-47 (King James Version)

INTRODUCTION: JESUS SPEAKS ABOUT GOD'S TRUE CHILDREN

³⁰ **As he spake these words, many believed on him.**

A common misunderstanding of people who profess to believe the Lord is found here in these verses this morning.

A common thread amongst ecumenicalism is a one-sided approach to true Christianity and has led people down a path of feeling safe from an eternal spiritual and physical destruction.

The true believer is called out to be separate amongst Gods people, and they are to serve him unconditionally and not on their terms but on His.

This verse we find here in John 8:30 is a test to those who call themselves "Christians" and is seen as a test to those who truly believe by true faith in Jesus or those who fall within the realms of unbelief even though they have a zeal for God.

- ✓ You don't have to take my word for it but you will have to take the Lord's Word on it as we shall discover in the following scriptures.
- Whenever a person seeks self, he is not seeking the Lord.

The Lord here in these following verses, is speaking about the very fact, of "**who is God's true Children**".

- We refer to this sometimes as the "Children of the Cross".

However we wish to refer to it as, the Bible tells us that these people in Acts were first referred to as Christians.

Acts 11:25-26

²⁵ Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:

²⁶ And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the **disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.**

- ✓ These were people who were considered to be true worshippers and true followers of the Lord and were his disciples.
- ✓ But here in these following verses it cannot be said to be that way.

Even though Jesus preached to the Jews in the temple they remained unfaithful to Him. Their unfaithfulness was in the way that they "Believed on Him." They had no saving faith in Jesus. They were not prepared to go to that step of faith, as Him being the Messiah.

- It has often been said that you can lead a horse to water, “but you cannot make it drink”.

This is what was taking place here in the temple. They had been led to the temple to “drink of Him” the Lord, but instead of drinking of Him, they stared at the living water and even remarked how bad that water was.

So now when we begin to study this passage of scripture important information is revealed to us, which was also by the way revealed to them.

31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

1. There are three criteria's to believing as a disciple.
 2. Firstly it is to believe, secondly it is to continue, and thirdly then you can be called a disciple of Jesus.
 - ✓ Remember, any person can say that they believe in God or Jesus as God, just as the devil believes in God and trembles.....but that does that make him saved.....no.
 - ✓ The act of salvation is only by putting your “faith” in Jesus Christ as Lord God, and Saviour of your life. And the scriptures are clear that “faith” comes by hearing of God's Word.
 - ✓ Without the knowledge of God's Word (continues in my Word Jesus said...), which explains who God is.
 - ✓ A person cannot believe in faith, if they don't know who Jesus is. So continuing in the word of God is the only way to know. Then and only then can a person have the “faith” which is the saving faith necessary for salvation.
- ❖ If there is any variation on any of these three criteria then that statement of believing was an in vain statement and is unbelief.

Matthew 15:9

But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.

3. So when Jesus replied to those Jews which said that they believed he applied those three principles to them.
 4. Those same three principles are not just applied to the Jews of that time but have applied to everyone all through the ages if they would want to call themselves a Christian. The lack of applying any of those principles led the Lord to say what he did.
 - ✓ So a disciple is only a disciple if he continues in God's Word.
- ❖ Therefore we have to understand that we must apply Gods Word to our understanding of “belief” as we see in verse 31 of our text. By that the Lord is saying if you keep my commandments (the word of God) then are you, His disciples.
 - ❖ A disciple is a person who identifies himself with God.
 - ❖ He is a follower, a student and a believer.

- ❖ So, when the Lord uses the term disciple, he uses it in the term as a “beloved one who the Father has redeemed through His Son”.
 - ✓ In other words, again a disciple is a “Child of the Cross”.
5. The Lord obviously knew the hearts of the Jews that said to Him that they believed. And he knew them to be false. This is tragedy like so many “professing Christians”. They have zeal of God, but deny the Godhead.
- ✓ It is for this reason that we see the Apostle Paul later on when he is addressing the Romans and the Jews; he applies this same principle that Jesus used to chastise the Jews in the temple treasury.

Romans 10:1-3

1. Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

² For I bear them record that **they have a zeal of God**, but not according to knowledge.

³ **For they being ignorant of God's righteousness**, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

1. It was not for the sake of knowledge. They had knowledge. Their problem was that they went about to establish their own righteousness.
 - ✓ You see, the dividing line for all so-called believers is whether they will continue in his word, which tells them on who and how to believe; instead of making up their own belief systems.
 - ✓ God's word is righteous and teaches righteousness.
2. And they that want to receive this righteousness must continue in it and accept it as the truth.
3. The Lord says that if you will do this, then are you, his disciples.

³² **And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**

- ✓ Having to rely on the bible (the scriptures) for your guidance and truth is the only way that you can be set free.
1. The bible is the instruction manual for truth and righteousness.
 2. When the Lord spoke to the Jews, he told them that it would be the truth that would set them free. In this sense of freedom, the Lords was not just talking in the physical but was talking in the spiritual. He was telling them that if they would just believe him for truths sake it would set them free, and that freedom would bring about their spiritual freedom. (everlasting life).
 3. This was what Timothy had learned from his mother and grandmother. It would be the Word of God which would set you free.

2 Timothy 3:15-16 ¹⁵ And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

4. Without Jesus Christ in your life you will never be free. You will not be free physically, and you certainly won't be free spiritually. But if you stay in the scriptures and **“DO”** what the scripture says, then the bible says you will be free.

If this was not true Jesus would have told us. So, by telling the believing Jews and believers to “continue” in His Word” is to allow them to find out that Jesus is God. The result of which will either lead to a “saving faith in Jesus” or to which they may reject Jesus.

- ✓ So to “Continue in Him”, then and only then can they or those believers by “faith” become his disciples and be heaven bound with Him.
- Acting faith in Jesus, through the scriptures is what makes a believer to be heaven bound, and that a mere belief in the existence of Jesus is not sufficient for salvation. Just as the scripture reminds us of the devil who believes that Jesus is the Son of God, but that does not mean he is saved.
- ❖ Remember, in verse 31, Jesus said to them, “if you continue in my word” then are you my disciples.
- ✓ **To have “no faith” that Jesus is God, is not going to result in salvation.**
- So this is why we see the following argument develop in the following verses.
- ✚ **This was the Jews reply in verse 33,those who said that they “believed” to Jesus as we read in verse 31 and verse 32.**

³³ They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

1. The Jews did not agree with the Lord.
 2. They gave their own rendition of righteousness when they said they were of Abrahams seed. To them Abraham was a guide to their freedom. But even so they had forgotten already that they did in fact become in bondage to the Babylonian rulers. But they chose to ignore that fact.
 3. **Abraham's seed**, was also a way for them to state their righteousness. For them to follow Abraham was sufficient for their salvation. God had told the Israelites in the OT that he would make a nation out of Abraham seed, but they did not understanding what God was actually saying.
- ✚ Just because people say that they “believe in God” that does not make them a Christian. They are not saved, they have no salvation, and they are not children of God.

Genesis 26:24

²⁴ And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake.

- ✓ Abraham's seed was the way in which God would use to call out his people. Through Abraham would come Isaac, and then Jacob, and through Jacob Gods people would be known as Israel.
 - ✓ So, it was not wrong that the Jews used this term Abraham's seed. It was wrong in the sense because they thought that they were the chosen nation of God, and that they could do no wrong. That was the problem Jesus was addressing.
4. The Jews thought that just by being Abraham's seed; they were free to do as they pleased. They thought that just by worshipping the way they did, that it did not require them to believe Jesus as the Messiah.
 5. The scriptures says that even Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness. But this is not what the Jews believed. They chose to only believe certain of the things that God said. Unlike what Romans 4:2-4 says.

Romans 4:2-4 ² For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. ³ For what saith the scripture? **Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.** ⁴ Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

- ✓ Abraham was not works based he was God based. He believed everything that God had said to him.
6. The Jews were always thinking of a physical freedom not a spiritual one which is what Jesus was talking about.

³⁴ **Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.**

1. The reminder that Jesus gave to the Jews in the Temple Treasury is the same reminder he gives us today.
 2. And that reminder is this. **Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.**
- ✓ This means that, if you are sinning, which you will be by the way. Then you are the servant of sin. In other words, a servant of sin is a person who continually sins. And if you are continually sinning then that means you cannot save yourself. And you need a "Saviour" to save you, and that Saviour can only be Jesus.
- **Sin is the master of all flesh, and its servant is you and me.**
 - We sin because of Adam's sin that was passed to us all the scripture says.

Romans 5:12

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Lets continue....

35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.

1. The explanation Jesus gave to the Jews was this. A servant who is serving sin will not always linger in that same situation. Sooner or later that person will die, and that servant will be gone. Unlike the Son (Jesus). Jesus speaking of Himself. He will never perish.
2. But the servant in the house of Sin will soon not be able to serve his master who is sin. The servant will not last.
3. In contrast to this situation Jesus is telling the Jews, that he will always be abiding over this sinful servant, even though that servant will perish.
 - ✓ So, what does this mean. It means that Jesus is the only one to whom they and we could turn to make us free. That is what Jesus said to them in the next verse.

36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

1. The Son who is Jesus is able to free them and us from that bondage of the Master of Sin.
 2. It is Jesus who can make them free and he told them that.
 3. To be free indeed, it to have eternal freedom that is what Jesus spoke about.
 - ✓ It is an eternal freedom, starting from now and going through to all eternity.
- ✚ The claim to the Jews was this "**If the Son therefore shall make you free.**
4. There cannot be any other way to reach this eternal freedom and this is what Jesus stated to them.
 - ✓ The only way to God the Father is through Jesus Christ. (John 14:6).
 - ✓ The mediator is Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 2:5 ⁵ For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

5. It is impossible to come to God in any other way, or through any other form.

Hebrews 11:6. ⁶ **But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

- ✚ You can see that in Hebrews 11 and in verse 6 it is saying exactly the same thing that Jesus said earlier. That you can only seek Him diligently through His word. That is why Jesus told them earlier in verse 31 of our text in John 8:31, that ... **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;**
- ✓ Every person needs to seek him diligently in faith for salvation.

37 I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

1. Jesus never for one moment denied that the Jews were of Abrahams seed. That was never in dispute.

2. What was in dispute was truth.
3. The Jews were denying Jesus' authenticity and so denied him as being God.
4. Therefore Jesus said to them that based on this truth you **“seek to kill me,** because my word hath no place in you.
5. They did not care about who Jesus claimed to be. They were bent on His destruction, and putting him to death, to silence him forever and so protect their religion.

38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

1. This did not prevent Jesus from telling the truth, and exposing them for who they were.
 2. Jesus always claimed the truth in any situation. Regardless of whether it implicated him or not.
 3. On the other hand, this is not what the Jews claimed. They had lied and Jesus told them that, even in earlier encounters.
 4. Jesus even told them that they do the things which they have seen of their father. In this instance their father Jesus was referring to was their father of lies the devil. (John 8:47)
- ✓ This is a very stern warning to them who profess to be telling the truth but in fact follow after the world.

39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

- ✓ They knew very well what Jesus meant when he referred to them as following their father. (The father of lies the devil).
 - ✓ They did not like that association and tried to counteract that claim by the Lord by saying Abraham was their father.
 - ✓ As the argument progressed, Jesus claim to them was that if they were truly Abraham's children, then they would have done the works of Abraham.
 - ✓ This works is the works we referred to earlier in the OT, as Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness.
- ✓ The truth be told to them, was that they would have acted differently if they were Abrahams children which Jesus could tell that they were not.
- ✓ This is the same truth when people say that they are followers of Jesus and they don't follow him.

40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

1. The confirmation that Jesus used against them was that, they were not the children of Abraham because they never acted like Him in the first place.
2. Jesus reminded them that when Abraham heard God he listened to God.
3. But they chose to ignore truth when they heard it. And he reminds them that Abraham never ignored God when he spoke to him.

41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

- ✓ People who are against God or people who follow after their own ways are actually following the path of evil.
 - ✓ The path of evil is always the path of Satan.
1. Here the Jews were following their father as Jesus said. Not Abraham, but they were following Satan.
 2. The deeds Jesus spoke of were what the devil would do. The devil would fight against anything and everything that stood for righteousness.
 3. Again their defense was to justify themselves by stating that they had a Father and that Father was God.
 4. Yet their actions did not reflect that.
 - ✓ People can claim all that they want, they can say things to make them feel better, and they can lay claim to whatever belief system they want to, but the bottom line is if they don't follow after Jesus Christ as God, and acknowledge God the Father and God the Holy Spirit as the Godhead they are nothing, and cannot be a child of God.
 5. Merely stating facts about Jesus without continuation in those facts is an empty religion.
 6. By stating that they.... **"We be not born of fornication,**was implying that they were without sin in their lives. Yet the bible says we are sinners.
 - ✓ It is such a danger to come before God, and think that we can stand in His Presence without Christ.
 7. This was what they were saying.

42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

1. Yet by contrast Jesus called them liars.
2. Because they rejected His truth, they rejected His word, and they rejected his presence.
3. There they had also by their own act of omission had rejected God the Father. Because Jesus said to them **If God were your Father, ye would love me.**
4. So by Jesus stating "**If God were your Father**", leads us to conclude that he was not their Father, because up until now they the Jews were not Gods chosen people in terms of their salvation at this point.
 - ✓ This point can be extended to all people today who don't believe in Jesus.
 - ✓ If you don't love Jesus, then God the Father does not love you either. And at this point you are still an outcast. (an unbeliever). And not a child of God.

43 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.

1. It does not matter whether you have the truth at your lips or not.
2. There are just some people who will not believe what you may have to say. Sometimes it's because of who you are that they will not listen or believe what you have to say.
3. Other times it is just because they will not want to believe.

4. But in this sense here Jesus uses the word **“cannot hear my word”**, in a way that shows their hardness of heart. Their heart was so hard towards him, because they were set on protecting what they had. They had a lifestyle and religion that was more precious to them than that of believing the truth.
 - ✓ Jesus told the Jews that they would not see and be healed, because even Isaiah had proclaimed the very same thing in Isaiah 6:11.
 - ✓ And we see Luke reaffirming those words of Isaiah 6 in the Book of Acts.

Acts 28:26-28 ²⁶ Saying, Go unto this people, and say, **Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive:**

²⁷ For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

²⁸ Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.

5. Jesus words are spiritual, and unless you believe that; you cannot hear what he is saying. The bible is not a history lesson it is a spiritual account of Gods saving grace and must be believed by faith in order to understand it.

⁴⁴ Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

1. With no words to mince, the Lord spoke the truth on every occasion and here was no different.
2. When the Lord told the Jews in the Temple that they were the.... **Ye are of your father the devil,** he was telling them that they were unbelievers.
3. It did not matter what else they may have thought of Him, it was a picture here of their spiritual blindness which the Book of Romans 10:1 told us earlier about. Blindness in part has come upon Israel.
4. It is this blindness that the Lord mentions, as they were following a religion of unbelief and a religion that could not save.
5. Yes they had the OT, but no it could not save them apart from believing only God. Because they had added all their own laws to observe as religious worship.
6. This is the blindness of Israel and the Jews, whose veil must be lifted for them to see the truth.

⁴⁵ And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

1. Truth is not what they the Jews want to hear.
2. They want to hear tradition, and what their fathers have to say.
3. They only follow the OT and their laws, and so Jesus is not part of their religion.

⁴⁶ Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

1. Not any Jew or any man can change the face of truth.
2. Jesus is the truth and no account of any man can change that.
3. The Jews were not able to do that even when Jesus challenged them here in verse 46.
4. They could not accuse him of any sin.
5. But in the same instant they would not even believe truth.

47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

1. The closing argument of any debate is very simple when you talk about the Lord.
2. This is what the Lord closed with in His sermon on that day in the Temple treasury.
3. This is the same closing argument for any person who says that they believe and trust in Jesus for their salvation. But don't hear the word of God.
4. **He that is of God heareth God's words.** When God speaks to us from His word it is the ultimate instruction for us to believe. A Christian will focus on this as the truth and will endeavor to do what the Lord asks of them.
5. **However,** a non believer will always argue these facts, and never take scripture at face value, but will bend it and change it to suit them.

✚ What will you do when Jesus says continue to follow me.

Luke 9:23 ²³ And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

PRAYER.....CLOSE