

# **What We Believe about Jesus Matters**

**John 8:21-30 (Page 79 in the BPB)**

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## **Introduction**

What we believe about Jesus matters.

**1John 2:22-23;**

**4:1-3, 14-15;**

**5:1, 5, 12, 20**

“The themes developed in vv. 12-20 are enlarged upon throughout the rest of this chapter.

“**They include:**

**Where Jesus comes from (vv. 23, 26, 29);**

**Where He is going (vv. 21-22, 28);**

**Who the Father is (vv. 26-27, 38, 54-55);**

**Who Jesus is (vv. 23-26, 38, 54-55)**

“**The opposite of each of these themes is applied to the Jews.**

**Jesus is from above, they are from below (v. 23)**

**They are from this world, Jesus is not from this world (v. 23)**

**Where Jesus goes, they cannot come (v. 21)**

**God is His Father, theirs is the devil (vv. 26-27, 41-44, 54-55)”**

**(Carson, D.A., TPNTC The Gospel According to John, p. 341)**

## **Jesus Confronts the Jews with their inability to go where He is going and the consequences of their inability**

<sup>21</sup>Then He said again to them,

“I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin;

where I am going, you cannot come.”

John 7:33-34

## **Consequences**

“you will die in your sin”

**The Jews Inability to understand what Jesus is saying**

<sup>22</sup>So the Jews were saying,

“Surely He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come’?”

John 7:35-36

**Jesus’ explains what he has said**

<sup>23</sup>And He was saying to them,

“You are from below, I am from above;  
you are of this world, I am not of this world.

**Jesus again warns the Jews of their dire condition**

<sup>24</sup>“Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins;  
for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”

**“I am He”** – also in John 8:28, 58 (8:12 “I am the light of the world... - Isa. 42:6)

See Isaiah 41:4; 43:10, 13, 25; 46:4 48:12; *cf.* also Deut. 32:39; Ex. 3:14

John 5:18 “For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him because...He was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.”

**Exception clause – “unless”**

**“unless** you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins”

Isaiah 43:10-11

**The Jews don't understand what Jesus has been saying to them**

<sup>25</sup>So they were saying to Him, "Who are You?"

**Jesus' Response**

Jesus said to them,

"What have I been saying to you from the beginning?"

<sup>26</sup>"I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you,

but He who sent Me is true;

and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world."

John 8:15-16

**John's Explanation**

<sup>27</sup>They did not realize that He had been speaking to them about the Father.

**Jesus' explanation**

<sup>28</sup>So Jesus said,

“When you lift up the Son of Man,

John 3:12-15

then you will know that

**I am He**, and

**I do nothing on My own initiative,**

**but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.**

<sup>29</sup>“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.”

John 4:34

John 5:19ff.

### **Result**

<sup>30</sup>As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him.

What kind of belief?

John 8:31, 42-45, 58-59 (2:23-25; 6:66)

### **Application:**

**Believe in Jesus so that you do not die in your sins.**

**John 14:6**

**Acts 4:12**

**John 20:30-3**