



Dying in Your Sin

By Jeff Bedwell on September 23, 2021

TODAY'S READING: John 8

Sometimes you just need to read and hear the words of scripture, and then let them sink in. That is what I want to invite you to do today when you read these words: *"I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am He you will die in your sins"* (John 8:24, ESV).

The religious leaders of Jesus' day had rejected Him. They denied His claims, called Him a blasphemer, attributed His work to Satan, and would eventually seek His death. They refused to believe in Him, and the result was that they would die in their sins.

Indeed, the contrasts in this text are striking. Jesus was from above, but the religious leaders were "of this world" (vs. 23). Jesus would be returning to the Father, but the people would never follow Him there. Even if they looked for Him, they would not find Him; they were headed to judgment as Jesus headed to the Father. Because they did not believe that He was who He said He was, they would die in their sins.

They were unforgiven. Guilty. Separated from their Creator. Lost. Hopeless. Judged. Spending eternity in a very real place called hell.

Their situation was deeply tragic, but such is the case for everyone who dies in his or her sin – and that is where we need to dwell on the text today. People die in their sin every day. It happens all around the world. It happens in our country. It happens in our state and our local community. It could even happen to people we know and love. Someone we know could die in his or her sin today.

The proper response to this reality is to pray for God to open their blinded minds while giving us courage to speak the gospel to everyone. Were it not for God's grace, we, too, would die in our sin.

Make a list of non-believers for whom you should be praying. Begin to pray today.

If you are a Christian, thank God for His grace that has rescued you from your sin and granted you eternal life in Christ Jesus.

PRAYER: Lord, I praise You for saving me. I do not want for a moment to take your grace for granted. Lord, give me today (1) an opportunity to speak with someone about Jesus; (2) the wisdom to see it; and (3) the courage to take it.

TOMORROW'S READING: John 9

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