

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

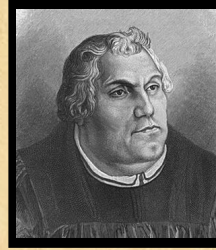
John 8:21-30

Lesson #31

How not to die

03/06/2016

Martin Luther



“Every man must do two things alone; he must do his own believing and his own dying.”

1

1000 WAYS TO DIE

**TV series from
2008 - 2013**

**featured true
stories of bizarre
ways to check out.**

2



Greg Laurie
Harvest Christian Fellowship
Riverside, Cal.

**“If you are born once,
you will die twice.**

**If you are born twice,
you will die once.”**

Revelation 20:6

“Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power,”



3

**You don't want to die in your sins
with a faith that is -**

1. Misguided.

It is FOR the wrong thing.

2. Misplaced.

It is IN the wrong thing.

4

**You don't want to die in your sins
with a faith that is -**

1. Misguided.

John 8

“²¹ He said therefore again (Jn.7:34) to them, “**I go away, and you shall seek me, and shall die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come.**” ²² Therefore the Jews were saying, “Surely He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come?’”

- **Where was Jesus going that they could not follow and why would they die in their sins as they continued to seek Messiah but reject Jesus?**

5

What is the point that Jesus makes?

- Jesus' impending death would be a unique sacrifice for sin that no one else could duplicate.
- A repeated phrase in John 8:21-30 is "dying in your sin." (vs.21, 24)
- Jesus' death would remove the curse of sin from God's people.
- What kind of Messiah were the Pharisees seeking?
 1. A social / political reformer?
 2. A perfect Pharisee - a model of piety?

6

- What is the essence of Christian faith?

Jesus' death is a mistake.

Jesus' death is an model.

**Affective
Private**

**Activistic
Political**

Personal Piety
(what Christ does **in** us)

Social Justice
(what Christ does **through** us)

7

- What is the essence of Christian faith?

Redemption from sin
(what Christ did **for** us)

Personal Piety
(what Christ does **in** us)

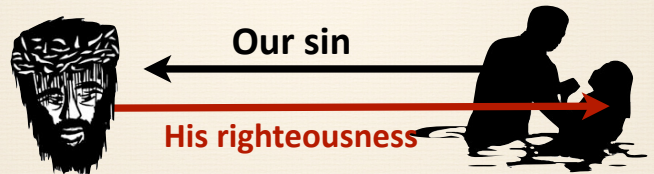
Social Justice
(what Christ does **through** us)

8

The great exchange

2 Corinthians 5:21

"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."



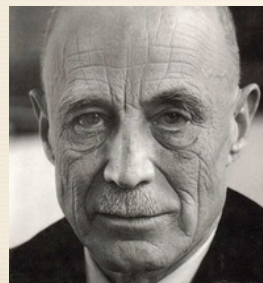
9

It is not our sin that ultimately keeps us from reconciliation with God but rather how we respond to what Jesus did to it.

10

H. Richard Niebuhr

(Neo-orthodox Christian theological-ethicists
Yale Divinity School)



"The theology of liberal protestantism was a God without wrath who brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross."

11

Our personal peace and wellbeing is indexed to our expectations, priorities, & values.

12

So what is the lesson for us?

1. What are we trusting God FOR?

- A happy personal life - here and now.
- A loving environment - justice and peace.
- **A love, peace, and joy that is not tied to our circumstances.**

2. What KIND of freedom are we seeking?

- A freedom from pain and suffering.
- A freedom to realize our dreams.
- **A freedom to love others and reflect the image of God.**

13

*You don't want to die in your sins
with a faith that is -*

1. Misguided.

2. Misplaced.

²³ 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. ²⁴ I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for **unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins.**"

14

²⁵ And so they were saying to Him, "Who are You?" Jesus said to them, "What have I been saying to you from the beginning? ²⁶ 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." ²⁷ They did not realize that He had been speaking to them about the Father. ²⁸ Jesus therefore said, **"When you lift up the Son of Man, 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. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him."

15

Observations

1. Faith in "something" is a universal characteristic of humans.
Humans are inescapably religious - either formally or informally.
2. The Pharisees had a religion that was "from below" - focused on this life.
Their faith was in the Law, their hope was in the temporal, and their love was for this life.
3. Jesus warns them that without faith in him they will remain in their sin.
4. Another repeated phrase in John 8:21-30 is "I am He" (vs.24, 28).

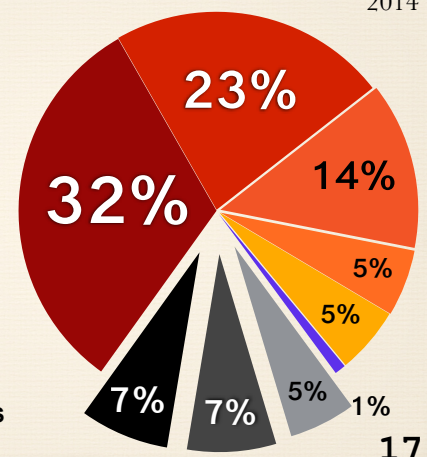
16

World religious beliefs

2010 Statistics
Pew Research
2014



- Christianity
- Islam
- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Chinese religions
- Judaism
- Others
- Nonreligious theists
- Agnostic atheist



17

Two important truths.

1. **Provision for salvation is complete at the Cross of Jesus.**
 - “Where I am going, you cannot go.” **Only Jesus could make atonement for sin.**
2. **Procurement of salvation is completed through faith in Jesus.**
 - “Unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins”. **Only we can exercise faith so as to be saved.**

18

So what is the lesson for us?

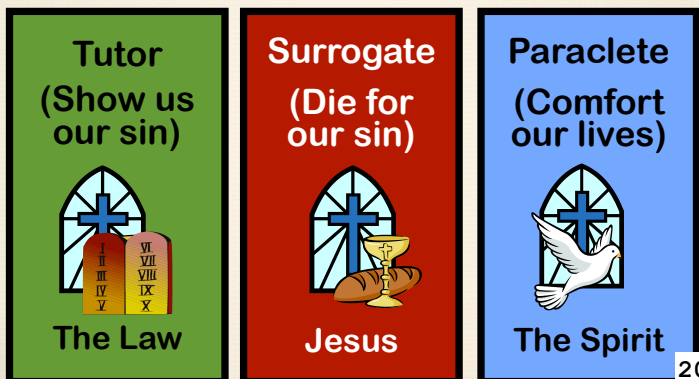
1. **Shield your heart from these common objects of faith for your soul.**
 - **Self** - follow your heart
 - **Science** - follow the experts
 - **Society** - follow the crowd
 - **Sentiment** - follow tradition

John 3:18

“He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

19

2. Keep a clear distinction between three common objects of faith:



Martin Luther King Jr.



“If a man hasn’t discovered something that he will die for, he isn’t fit to live.”

21

In our baptism we pledge to live for Christ as those who have died with him and now offer ourselves as living sacrifices.



**Take your baptism seriously.
God does!**

22

**Christians do not live life as those who have no hope.
They live life as those who have no fear
because they have already died with Christ in their baptism.**

23