



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel  
John 8:31-36  
From Sermon 2.18.24

Read *John 8:31-36*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: As Jesus begins to conclude His Festival of Booths teaching, He switches from rebutting His critics to teaching true disciples and weeding out false disciples. His truth discussion here reveals the traits of the genuine and the counterfeit. Some of those who heard Him were baby Christians. Others were non-elect lost still trusting in human solutions.

1. Review the "roads to hell" (how to die in your sins) from two weeks ago.

(Many paths all leading to the same destination) See *Matthew 7:13-14*

- Trust in Self-Righteousness
- Live Worldly
- Continue in Unbelief
- Willful Ignorance

2. Now, discuss this week's "pathway to heaven". (Single path: Exclusive & Narrow) See *John 14:6*

- Faith
- Continue (endure)
- Freedom

3. Believe vs Faith. Although often used as synonyms, "believe" must always be considered in context to the passage. Several times, even in John's Gospel, people were said to have *believed*, but time showed they were not saved. Sometimes "believe" is merely a human attraction, acknowledgment, and means of gain. See *John 2:23-25, Matthew 7:21-23, & James 2:19*.

However, Faith is a gift from God. It includes surrender, repentance, trust, transformation, & life. See *Ephesians 2:8-9 & Hebrews 11:1 & 6*.

3a. How does this tie into Paul's admonition to the Corinthians to "test themselves to see if they were in the faith"? The church is full of those with a false sense of security. Look of true believer traits.

4. Servant vs. Slave. In our English Bible translations, there's been a historical issue: "Servant" has replaced "slave". MacArthur sites two main reasons for this: Political correctness/societal sensitivity & use of Latin translations. For the record, the Greek "doulos" Slave is used 126 Times. See also *Galatians 1:10*

The Greek "diakonos" (deacon) Servant is used 29 Times.

In verse 34, Jesus said: "*Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.*" Discuss the unpopular reality that everyone in all times is a slave. A slave to something with one of two masters.

See *John 8:44 & Acts 4:24 & 29, Matthew 6:24, & Romans 6:14-18*

5. One trait of the false disciple is to fall away. How do we balance the inevitable, even seasonal sin/absence of a true believer to the lifestyle/*no-need-for-church* life of those without genuine faith? Although time will tell, it's not as long a time as many think or wish (for friends and family not walking with the Lord). Genuine believers will be convicted quickly and harshly, resulting in repentance and return. Peter vs. Judas