

# Knowledge is Not Enough

John 8:21-30

A little bit of knowledge can get you killed. You can know all the facts about a subject. But if you choose not to act on that knowledge, and in fact, reject what you have learned, it could lead to serious consequences.

John 8:21-30 paints a contrast between two groups of people. The Jewish leaders heard what Jesus taught but refused to believe the message. Many others who heard took the opposite viewpoint and believed that Jesus was who he claimed to be.

***Knowing the truth is not enough. We must choose to believe the message.***

Jesus is continuing to teach in the temple (21). His message is similar to what he taught in John 7:33-34.

Jesus emphasized that the Jewish leaders needed to believe his message because their time was running out.

If we reject Jesus, we will die in our sins.

The Jewish leaders misunderstood Jesus' statement that he was going away (22). Previously (7:34-35), they thought he was going to minister in Gentile territory. Now, they wonder if Jesus will commit suicide.

While Jesus will not commit suicide, he will lay down his life willingly to secure our salvation.

Jesus explains that the reason he was misunderstood was traceable to his hearers' origin (23-24).

From below	From above
Fallen creation – evil world system	Heavenly realm where sin cannot exist
Those who reject Christ	Those who believe Christ
Doomed to die in their sin	Declared holy and righteous
Will suffer punishment for their deeds	Will not suffer punishment

By stating “I am”, Jesus was claiming to be God (24).

Jesus' hearers were confused (25) and wanted to know who Jesus was.

Jesus' teaching was consistent with what he had always claimed about himself.

Jesus had much more to say and part of it involved judgment (26). All that he said was true and came from God the Father (26-27).

Lifting up the Son of Man refers to his crucifixion (28). It also speaks of his exaltation.

Jesus' death on the cross is God's final word about Jesus (28-29). It confirms Jesus' participation in the plan and purpose of God.

While the Jewish leaders might have been confused, many others believed Jesus' message (30).

***Knowing the truth is not enough. We must choose to believe the message.***