

DISCIPLES INDEED

Jhn 8:28-32

INTRODUCTION:

- A. This conversation of Jesus was with a group of Jews some of whom were hostile, others were believers of His
- B. The statement that some are "disciples indeed" suggest that there may be some who in spite of claims are not in "deed" disciples of Christ - some are counterfeit

DISCUSSION:

I. NOTICE SOME DEFINITIONS

- A. "Disciple" - comes from a Latin verb "to learn" a learner a follower of some particular teacher, an adherent of the principles of some leader or school of thought
- B. "Indeed" - in reality, truth as opposed to that which is counterfeit - discipleship is not just a state of being
 - 1. A prepositional phrase compounded into one word
 - a. "In" shows location of sphere
 - b. "Deed" originally meant "DO" the word as a whole conveys the idea of proving by performance
 - 2. "Deed" also used in reference to a signed bargain or contract
 - 3. In all areas it has to do with that which is genuine

II. THERE MAY BE DISCIPLES IN "CLAIM"

- A. The Jews claimed the favor of God by fleshly ties with Abraham Jhn 8:39
 - 1. However God did not recognize them Jhn 8:39,40; Matt 15:8,9
 - 2. See John's charge Lk 3:8
- B. Men claim discipleship today, but the test of "Indeed" must be applied
 - 1. One can claim to be a doctor, lawyer, soldier etc and some have practiced a profession for a time before being caught
 - 2. Can claim to have real money, but it be counterfeit
- C. How can one be a disciple "indeed" when they teach and practice things such as:
 - 1. Salvation by faith only Jas 2:24
 - 2. Impossibility of falling from grace Gal 5:4
 - 3. Deny the inspiration and authority of God's word Jhn 12:48
 - 4. Note: "If ye continue in my word," THEN

III. THERE MAY BE DISCIPLES IN NAME

- A. Closely connected to those in "claim"
 - 1. Jews were disciples in name Jhn 8:39
 - 2. Wore his name and theoretically taught his doctrine

- 3. Some are licensed as doctors and lawyers, etc. A piece of paper says they are but not in reality because they are not "practicing"
- B. They do not continue in his word
 - 1. "Continue" suggest stable residence Jas 1:25
 - 2. Being steadfast 1Cor 15:58
- C. This group may fall into two categories
 - 1. Those who fall by the wayside and quit trying
 - 2. Those who continue to attend assemblies and pretend, but whose lives are immoral

IV. THERE ARE DISCIPLES INDEED (Genuine)

- A. They show by their lives (performance) that they are followers of Christ Phil 1:9-11; Rom 12:1,2
- B. They search for the Truth - recognize a personal responsibility in the matter Acts 17:11
- C. They learn the Truth - Do their best to understand what God's will is Jhn 8:32; Eph 3:4
- D. They obey the Truth - After determining what God's will is they comply with it Heb 5:8,9
- E. They abide (continue) in the Truth - Remain steadfast in the teaching of God 1Cor 15:58; Jhn 8:31; Jas 1:25

CONCLUSION:

- A. Results of being a disciple indeed is being made free from sin Jhn 8:32
 - 1. Free from the guilt of sin Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16
 - 2. Free from the dominion of sin Rom 6:14; 8:2
 - 3. Free from the sting of death 1Cor 15:55-57
- B. ARE YOU A DISCIPLE INDEED?