

THE ANTIDOTE FOR DYING

December 31, 2017 John 8:21-30 by Bob Branch
Finding Jesus, Finding Life, part 26

BIG IDEA: Jesus himself is the antidote to “dying *in* our sins” by dying *for* our sins and revealing the Father’s love to us through it.

²¹ Once more Jesus said to them, “I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come.”

²² This made the Jews ask, “Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, ‘Where I go, you cannot come’?”

²³ But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. ²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.”

1. When we trust Jesus to save us, we CHANGE CITIZENSHIP.

“Our citizenship is in heaven.” **Philippians 3:20**

“They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.” **John 17:16** (15:19)

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your *hearts on things above*, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your *minds on things above*, not on earthly things.” **Colossians 3:1-2**

2. To die in our sins means to NOT GO where he’s going.

²⁵ “Who are you?” they asked.

“Just what I have been telling you from the beginning,” Jesus replied. ²⁶ “I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world.” ²⁷ They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father.

“This is eternal life, to know you, the only true God, and him whom you have sent - Jesus Christ.” **John 17:3** JBP

“I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.” **John 17:26**

3. Just as Jesus’ relationship with his Father defines him, so too OUR RELATIONSHIP with the Father—paid for and given to us by Jesus—defines us!

²⁸ So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. ²⁹ The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.” ³⁰ Even as he spoke, many believed in him.

“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” **John 12:32** (3:14)

4. The death of Jesus on the cross will reveal God’s justice and love, our helplessness in our sin, *and* Jesus’ identity as the MESSIAH-DELIVERER.

“Christ died for sins once and for all time. The One who did what is right died for those who don’t do right. He died to bring you to God.” **1 Peter 3:18** NlrV