

### The Resurrection of Life and the Resurrection of Judgment

#### John 5:24-29

John 5:24-29 - *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.*

*<sup>25</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup> For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, <sup>27</sup> and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice <sup>29</sup> and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”*

#### Background Notes

In the Matthew's Gospel, Jesus Christ is presented as the King – the Jewish Messiah.

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus Christ is presented as the Perfect Servant.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus Christ is presented as the Son of Man.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus Christ is presented as the Son of God.

The great theme of the Gospel of John is the **full deity of Jesus Christ**. As you read through John's Gospel, it's impossible to miss this theme. Jesus is more than just a “good man” – much more! He is fully God! Everything in the Gospel of John points to this great truth. The seven Sign Miracles of Christ, the dialogues and the conversations of our Lord, the 'I AM' statements - all of these things emphasize and enhance the great truth that **Jesus is God**.

In John 5, the Lord Jesus was having a discussion with the Jewish leaders. They had found fault with Him for healing a paralyzed man on the Sabbath, and for intimating that He was God. In the discussion that followed the miracle, the Lord did more than just intimate that He was God - He clearly claimed to be God!

In verse 21 He said, *“For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.”* Then in verse 22 He added, *“Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son.”* In these verses, the Lord emphasized His life-giving power and His position of the Judge of all mankind. These are claims that only God can make, so these statements further back up His claim to be God.

Our doctrinal points have the good news and the bad news.

## Doctrinal / Teaching Points

### 1. The good news is that there is a resurrection of life.

*“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth - those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation”(v28-29).*

The “resurrection of life” is the resurrection of those people who are saved. It is called the resurrection of life because those who participate in this resurrection have eternal life. 1 Corinthians 15 says that the resurrection of life is a bodily resurrection. Believers will live forever with resurrected bodies. Philippians 3:21 says, “[Jesus], *by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*”

In Revelation 20:6, the resurrection of life is called the “first resurrection”: *“Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.”* The second death is eternal separation from God. Christians die physical deaths, but they will never be separated from the Lord. This is good news! There is a resurrection of life.

How can we be sure that we will participate in the resurrection of life? Verse 24 is one of the great gospel verses in the Bible! Jesus said: *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”* If you hear the Word of God, the Word of the Lord Jesus, and believe in Him who sent His Son into the world, you will receive eternal life.

Notice the present tense: *“has everlasting life.”* You don’t just get eternal life when you die. No! If you are a believer, **you have eternal life now!** It’s a **present possession**. You have already crossed over from the realm of spiritual death into the realm of spiritual life. You will not have to stand before God at the final judgment to find out whether you’re going to heaven or hell. That has all been settled. If you have trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have eternal life right now, and you will participate in the resurrection of life. And that’s the good news of verse 29.

*“Those who have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life”* (v29). In this verse, do the words *“done good”* mean someone who has “done good works” or “done good deeds”? No, to *“do good”* here means to believe the Word of God and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior.

In John 6:28-29, here’s how Jesus Himself defined “doing good.” When he was asked, *“What must we do to do the works God requires?”* He answered, *“This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”* Have you done this good work that God requires? Will you be part of the resurrection of life? The good news is that there is a resurrection of life!

## **2. The bad news is that there is a resurrection of condemnation.**

Once again, John 5:28-29: *“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth - those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”*

The “resurrection of condemnation” (or judgment) is the resurrection of unbelievers, or those who are damned. Unbelievers, or *“those who have done evil,”* have refused to believe in the One God has sent. They will be resurrected to stand before the final judgment of the “great white throne.”

The Bible doesn't tell us what kind of body the resurrected unbelievers will have, but in Revelation 20:11-15 we read, *“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things that were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”*

Who is the Judge at the “Great White Throne” judgment? The Lord Jesus Christ will be the Judge! John 5:22 tells us, *“For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son...”* And look at verses 26- 27: *“the Father...has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.”* Jesus Christ has the power to give life to the believer, and He also has the authority to execute judgment on the unbeliever. Why? Because **Jesus is God!**

In verses 26-27 Jesus once again made the claim that He is fully God. Speaking of Himself, our Lord used the title, “Son of Man” (v27). That title was used in Daniel 7. In a vision Daniel saw the Son of Man – the Messiah - given total authority over all peoples and nations. In Philippians 2:10 we read that in the future “at the name of Jesus every knee will bow: *“every knee will bow of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth.”*

The good news is that some people, in this lifetime, will bow the knee and worship Jesus, because there is a resurrection of life. The bad news is that some people who refused to bow the knee to Jesus in this lifetime will eventually bow the knee in judgment - because there is a resurrection to condemnation.

## **Practical Applications**

### **1. Remember that you were born dead!**

You were born dead - spiritually dead. *“Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live”(v25).* Here the Lord was speaking of the proper time to

“hear the voice of the Son of God.” That time is right now, in the “age of grace,” in the era of the Church, in the period of time before the Lord returns. “The dead” mentioned here are the spiritually dead. That includes every one of us. All of us are spiritually dead until we **hear** the voice of the Son of God, **believe** in Christ as Savior, and **receive** eternal life.

You were born spiritually dead. We all were born spiritually dead. People are not born with spiritual life, and then they lose it if they don't come to faith as adults. No! We are born spiritually *dead*, and we remain spiritually dead until we come to Christ for spiritual life. Ephesians 2:1, “*And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.*”

Do you have spiritual life? **No one is born a Christian** - regardless of a Christian home, church attendance, or a Christian family. You must **become** a Christian. Have you taken that step of faith in Christ? Have you become a Christian?

Remember - you were born dead!

## 2. Remember that you will exist forever.

The Bible teaches that there is a resurrection of life and a resurrection of judgment. Every single soul that ever existed, or ever will exist, will participate in either the resurrection of life or the resurrection of condemnation/judgment. There is no other option, and there is no other category!

And you will exist **forever**. That's an awesome thought! When the Lord used the words “verily, verily I say to you” or “truly, truly I say to you” or “most assuredly I say to you,” He was emphasizing the importance of what He was about to say.

Think of the importance of this truth - you will exist forever, either in the resurrection of life, or the resurrection of judgment.

You will exist forever - in heaven or in hell. Nowhere does the Bible teach that unbelievers will eventually make it to heaven, or somehow cease to exist.

Remember this awesome thought - you will exist forever!