



TALKS FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS TRANSCRIPT

John 5:24-29: Every Soul that Ever Lived Will Participate in the Resurrection of Life or the Resurrection of Judgment

"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. 25 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. 26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, 27 and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 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 Gospel of Matthew, 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. And finally, in the Gospel of John, Jesus Christ is presented as the Son of God. This is the great theme of the Gospel of John – the **full deity of Christ**. As you read through John's Gospel, this theme is hard to miss: Jesus is more than just a "good man" -- He is fully God! Everything in the Gospel of John points to this great truth. The seven sign miracles of Christ, the dialogues and conversations of our Lord, the 'I AM' statements -- all of these emphasize and enhance the great truth that **Jesus is God**.

Here in John 5, the Lord Jesus was having a discussion with the Jewish leaders who found fault with Him for healing on the Sabbath, and for intimating that He was God. In the discussion that followed the miracle, the Lord did more than just intimate 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 said, *"Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son."* These are claims that only God can make. In the verses before us, the Lord emphasized his life giving power as well as His position of the Judge of all mankind. These statements further back up His claim to be God. We have two doctrinal points: 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 tells us that the resurrection of life is a bodily resurrection. Christians will live in heaven with resurrected bodies. Philippians 3:21 says, "*who [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 do we make 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 and believe the Word of God, the Word of the Lord Jesus, you will receive eternal life. Notice the present tense: 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. That is the good news of verse 29. Those who have "done good" will come forth to the resurrection of life. Does that mean "done good" mean "done good works" or good deeds? No, to "do good" means to believe the Word of God and trust Christ as Savior. In John 6:28-29, Jesus 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, verses 28-29: "*Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 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,*" are 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 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,^[c] 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 which 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.^[d] 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 not only has the power to give life to the believer, He also has the authority to execute judgment on the unbeliever, because Jesus is God. In verses 26-27 Jesus once again made the claim that He is fully God.

The title, "Son of Man," that our Lord used of Himself (v27) is taken from Daniel 7. In a vision Daniel saw the Messiah given total authority over all peoples and nations. In Philippians 2:10 we read that in the future every knee will bow to the name of Jesus - - "*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 bow eventually the knee in judgment --because there is a resurrection to condemnation.

Practical Applications

1. Remember that you were born dead!

You were born dead -- that is, 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). The Lord is speaking here of the proper time to "hear the voice of the Son of God." That time is right now, in the "age of grace," the time of the church, the period of time before the Lord returns. "The dead" here are the spiritually dead -- and that includes every one of us, until we hear the voice of the Son of God, believe in Christ as Savior and receive eternal life.

You were born spiritually dead. People are not born with spiritual life, and then lose it when they grow up, if they don't come to faith. No! We are born spiritually dead and we must 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 their home, their church, their family. You must **become** a Christian. Have you taken that step of faith in Christ and 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 will participate in either the resurrection

of life or the resurrection of condemnation or judgment. There is no other option or category!

And you will exist **forever** – that’s an awesome thought! When the Lord uses the words “verily, verily” or “truly, truly” (which means “**most assuredly** I say to you”), He is talking about something that is very important Think of it -- you will exist forever. You will exist forever either in heaven or in hell. The Bible doesn’t teach that unbelievers eventually make it to heaven, or somehow cease to exist.

Remember -- you will exist forever!