

Lighthouse Bible Church

January 13th, 2013

John 5: 24 – 30 *Scripture Reading: Revelation 20: 11 - 15*

Resurrection to Life or Condemnation Part #2

Stand – Read – Pray

We saw that the reason for what is being said in John Chapter 5 comes from a miracle that Jesus performed on the Sabbath day in healing a man of his 38 year infirmity.

When the Jews found out about it, they confronted Jesus and most of chapter 5 is His response to them. He, as we have seen, told them that He is equal with the Father **by who He is**, by what **He has done** in His display of **power and sovereignty in raising the dead**, by His authority to **judge** everyone and by the **honor** He deserves.

He has been telling them very clearly that if they have seen Him they have seen the Father, and if they had known Him they would have known the Father. Jesus truly is Immanuel, God with us.

We saw the Jewish religious leaders response to that and it wasn't one of belief or conversion or humility of heart because of who Jesus tells them He is. It is one of contempt and anger and pride and jealousy that Verses 16 and 18 say **for this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him.**

All because He healed a man on the Sabbath and all because He is telling them the truth about who He is, the Son of God, and they hated Him but, this was all in the plan of God that would eventually lead Jesus to the cross.

And as we saw two weeks ago, if you don't believe in the Jesus of the Bible then you believe in a Jesus that cannot save you from your sin and, unfortunately, there are a lot of people that believe in an unbiblical Jesus today.

So what they are, in essence, doing is what Jesus said in **John 12: 48**, they are rejecting Him and His words and because of that they will stand before Him in judgment on the last day.

So we want to pick it up in Verse 24 and following to see the consequences of believing or rejecting the word of God and believing or rejecting the Christ of the Bible. And it is shared most graphically in the resurrection power that Jesus has to raise those who believe to everlasting life and those who reject to everlasting condemnation.

We saw last week, in great detail, the reality of the resurrection that will happen to every person who has ever lived. We saw that, for the believer, it is a hope we have about what lies beyond this life. It was a resurrection hope in the Old Testament, as we saw, and it is a resurrection hope in the New Testament as well.

What Jesus said in Verses 21 – 22 of John Chapter 5 is a reference to the resurrection of life that He is about to explain in more detail in our passage this morning. He has the power, because all judgment was committed to Him, to raise those to everlasting life and to raise those to everlasting condemnation as we shall see. So let's look at it starting in Verse 24.

Verse 24: 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.

Jesus, again, because He wants to tell them a very important truth, says **most assuredly, amen, amen I say to you**. Jesus tells them, and us, very plainly that the way to **everlasting life** is offered to anyone **who hears His words and believes in Him who sent Jesus**.

Jesus says eternal life is only possible by those who **hear His words**. To hear what He has to say about how someone receives eternal life. For the Jew of that day, it would be all that is written in the Old Testament and what Jesus has been saying to them in His life and ministry.

Look at **John 5: 39** which says ...

For us today, it is not only the Old Testament but all that is written in the New Testament, all of the Word of God. The 4 gospels that record what Jesus said about eternal life. The rest of the New Testament that His disciples and Apostles wrote about what He said about the gospel and eternal life. Isn't that what **John 1: 1 – 3, 14** said about Jesus. **In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God ...**

1st John 1: 1 says **that which was from the beginning which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of Life..** It is His words because He is the Word. That is who Jesus is and that is the words which He speaks.

So, in essence, only when you believe what the Word of God says about Jesus and what Jesus said, can you have everlasting life. He also says, not only he who hears My words, **and believes in Him who sent Me**. One must not only believe in the Word of God but they must believe in the God of the Word and they must believe in Christ as God because they are one in the same as we have seen over and over again.

By the way, **hearing His Word** is not enough, it is when you **believe** what you hear and it takes hold to everlasting life. Many people hear but they don't believe. Those who do believe to everlasting life will evidence itself in the fruit of a changed life.

Jesus said in **John 8: 51** **most assuredly I say to you, anyone who KEEPS My word shall never see death.** Salvation and belief are always evidenced by works, right. **James 2: 18** says **show me your faith without works and I will show you my faith by my works for faith w/o works is dead.** He said earlier in **James 1: 22** **don't be merely hearers of the word but (what) doers of it.**

Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, said in **Matthew 7: 24** **whoever hears these saying of Mine and (what) does them.**

And when you hear Jesus' words and believe in Him who sent Him to eternal life, notice what happens and the end of Verse 24. **You shall not come into judgment, but have passed from death into life.**

Jesus, who is the judge of all, according to Verse 22, will not allow one who hears and believes to eternal life **to come into judgment.** They are no longer under the condemnation of God because God's Son, Jesus, takes their punishment and judgment upon Himself on the cross.

Remember what **John 3: 18** said **He who believes in Him is not condemned, but he who does not believe is condemned already.** Either you hear and believe and receive eternal life or you do not. Later in **John 3: 36** He said **He who believes in the Son has everlasting life and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.**

Remember in **Romans 8: 1** where it says **there is therefore now NO CONDEMNATION to those who are in Christ Jesus..**

When somebody does hear and believe and receive everlasting life and is no longer judged or condemned by God, it says **they pass from death into life**. That phrase in the original language is in the *present active indicative* which means it is a passing from one place or state to another with permanent results that cannot be changed. In other words, when you receive everlasting life, when you become a born again believer, it is permanent. You cannot lose it.

So, with what we have seen so far, you either hear and believe and receive Christ and His words to everlasting life, or you don't hear, you don't believe and you don't receive Christ and you do so to everlasting judgment and condemnation and **death**.

Jesus is talking here about two different aspects of **passing from death into life**. Everyone in this room was born in sin and were dead in trespasses and sins, right. **Romans 5: 12 for as by one man sin entered the world and death through sin and thus death spread to all men because all have sinned.**

Remember what **Ephesians 2: 1 says and you He made alive who were dead in trespasses and sins. Verse 5: even when we were dead in trespasses, He made us alive together with Christ...**

So in one sense, He is talking about passing from **spiritual** death into spiritual, everlasting life that we can experience now, that many of us have experienced when we were saved. But He is also talking about the **physical** sense in which those who pass from death to life will be raised, physically, in the resurrection to eternal life.

And those who are still spiritually dead in their trespasses and sins, who haven't passed from death to life, will also be raised, physically, to eternal judgment, punishment and condemnation.

So the truth that Jesus has the power to give life and to judge everyone, because He is God, is going to be illustrated in what He says in verses 25 – 30 about His power to Judge and His resurrection power. Look at Verse 25.

Verse 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.

Here it is again; **most assuredly**, He wants them to know that what He is about to say is extremely important and true. He says **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.**

In this Verse, Jesus is talking about a spiritual resurrection of a spiritually **dead** person. He says **when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.** He is not talking about a physical resurrection because that will happen later in Verses 28 – 29. Here He is talking about someone spiritually awakening from their spiritual deadness.

Like I said earlier, we are all spiritually **dead** in our sins before we trust in Christ as our Savior, and only He can make us alive. That term *dead* is never used of a believer unless the context says otherwise such as ‘dead in Christ’. Here Jesus is contrasting someone who is spiritually dead, who, in hearing His words, comes to spiritual life. The widow of **1st Timothy 5: 6** but she who lives in pleasure is **dead while she lives.** Jesus told the man in **Matthew 8: 22** let the dead bury their own dead. The spiritually dead bury the physically dead.

That is why Jesus says **the hour is coming and now is.** He is not talking about a literal hour but a time frame of the influence of His words on spiritually dead people to make them spiritually alive, when they **hear the voice of the Son of God.** We are still living in that hour today, aren't we?

Jesus says, **the hour now is** because they are hearing the actual words of Christ leading to eternal life. Several of his disciples were made alive, the Samaritan woman was made alive, the people of Sychar were made alive, the man at the pool was made alive. Many others will be made alive because of Christ's words to them directly or through His teaching.

The **hour is coming** because when Jesus dies on the cross and is resurrected and then sends the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, He will make alive more, 3000 the first day of preaching, who will in turn make alive more through the preaching and teaching of the Word of God, up until this very day. The hour is always coming. **John 17: 20** Jesus says **I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me**, be made alive, **through their words**.

By the way, we are the **voice of the Son of God** today, are we not? Using the Word of God and by the Spirit of God we speak the truth of the gospel that is able to make one wise unto salvation. **2nd Corinthians 5: 20** says that **God is pleading through us** for people to be reconciled, made alive, to God and Christ.

Why will those who hear live? Because of what Verse 26 says

Verse 26: FOR as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself.

There were back to Verse 21 again. But notice what is different this time from Verse 21. In Verse 21 Jesus gives life to whom He wills. In Verse 26 Jesus is life. Jesus is the giver of life and He is life Himself. That is why He says later in **John 14: 6** **I am the way and the truth and ... the LIFE and no one comes to the Father except through Me.**

Listen, no one can ‘find’ eternal life, no one can ‘work’ to achieve eternal life, no one can do anything to have eternal life, because it comes from the only source of life and that is Jesus. When some other religion tells you that you can have eternal life by saying so many of these, doing so many of those or whatever, it is a lie, only Christ can give life because He is life.

Remember what John said at the very beginning of this book in **John 1: 3 – 4 all things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made, in Him was life...**

It is only Christ that gives everlasting life, and that is what He is saying in Verses 25 and 26, He is talking about a spiritual resurrection to everlasting life by passing from sin and death to faith and life, it is someone who is born again. So now we are going to see the physical resurrection in Verses 27 – 30.

Verse 27: and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

Notice that when Jesus has the authority to give everlasting life He is called the ‘Son of God’. And now when He has the authority to **execute judgment** He is called **the Son of Man**. That is an important distinction.

What He is saying there is that because Jesus became a man, a sinless and holy yet tempted in every way we were man, He knows mankind and can make an accurate judgment, because He has been there. He is not a distant judge sitting somewhere ruling but came to be one of us and experienced everything, including death so that no one can say ‘He doesn’t know what we’ve been through’. Read the book of Hebrews and you can see His intimate knowledge of us and His understanding of what we have and will go through.

One writer said ‘it can never be alleged by those who are condemned and judged that their judge was a distant, cold, and unfriendly person’. *Barnes e.sword*. By the way, no man could ever judge mankind because no man is without sin except Jesus. He is the only One who **could** and **does** and **will** judge.

Then Jesus tells them in **Verse 28** **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.**

Notice that He does not say, the hour is coming and ‘now is’ like He did in Verse 25. It is because this is the **physical** resurrection and it is a **future** resurrection of everyone. O, they got a glimpse of the physical resurrection like that of Lazarus, of Jairus’ daughter of those raised at His crucifixion. But in this resurrection, **EVERYONE** in the grave **will hear His voice**, everyone.

Jesus is telling these religious hypocritical Jewish unbelievers, **not to marvel**, not only in the fact that He has the power to give eternal life and to judge everyone, but He also has the power to raise everyone from the grave.

This is the physical resurrection that includes everyone, **those who have done good to the resurrection of life and those who have done evil to the resurrection of condemnation.** Every person who has ever lived will experience this resurrection. The reuniting of the spiritual body with the soul of the just and unjust.

I want you to notice something here. In Verse 25 it says ‘the dead, spiritually, will hear His voice and those who hear, will live’. Listen, the key to that verse is the word “THOSE”, which does not include everyone, it is only those who hear that receive the everlasting life of verse 24.

This hearing of the ‘voice of the Son of God’ is one that only those who are sovereignly chosen to eternal life can hear and respond to, by faith. It is what is known as an *effectual* calling. One that can only be heard by those whom **Ephesians 1: 4 – 6** says are called and chosen by God.

But this calling forth and hearing in Verse 28 is a general call to everyone that everyone will respond to because **all who are in the grave will hear His voice**. Think about that kind of power, to raise everyone who has ever lived and died from the grave. That is resurrection power.

And by the way, you have that same power living within you, did you know that? Paul, **Philippians 3: 10** says **longed to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. Romans 8: 11** says **but if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you**. Listen, the same power, the Holy Spirit, that raised Christ from the dead, the same power that Christ will use to raise all the dead is the same power, the Holy Spirit living in you. Then look at Verse 29.

Verse 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.

This is the physical resurrection of everyone who has ever lived. This is the uniting of the soul with the resurrected spiritual body of both believers and unbelievers. Remember, as a believer, when we die Paul said in **2nd Corinthians 5: 8** **to be absent from the body is to be ... present with the Lord.**

Let me be quick to say something here. The point that Jesus is making in this passage is that all who have ever lived are going to be raised to life, either eternal life in heaven or eternal condemnation in hell. What He doesn't say here that other scriptures say elsewhere is that this is not a single resurrection event.

In other words the resurrection of the believers and unbelievers will happen, is Jesus' point here, but it will happen at different times, but Jesus is concerned with that at this point, so He just says it's going to happen to everyone.

We know from scripture that the resurrection of believers will happen at different times. The first one will be at the rapture **1st Thessalonians 4: 15 – 17** tells us. The next one will be for the O.T. saints, (*the rest of the dead Verse 5 shows all others have been raised*) and tribulation saints at the beginning of the Millennial reign of Christ according to **Revelation 20: 4 – 6.**

The final resurrection will be at the end of the Millennial reign of Christ and the beginning of eternity when all unbelievers will be resurrected at the **Great White Throne Judgment of Revelation 20: 11 – 15.** So there is a distinction between the resurrection of believers and unbelievers but Jesus doesn't address that here. He just simply says that it is going to happen, most assuredly.

Jesus also says in Verse 29 **those who have done GOOD to the resurrection of life and those who have done EVIL to the resurrection of condemnation.**

Some people take this verse to mean that you are saved and will have eternal life because of the GOOD things that you have done. We are not inherently good, we are inherently evil, right? **Isaiah 64: 6** says **our righteousness is as filthy rags.** **Romans 3: 10 – 18** describes the state of every person before the come to Christ and in that in Verse 12 he says **there is none who does good, no, not one.** You can read **Ephesians 2: 1 – 3** that says we **walked ... among whom we conducted ourselves ... and were by NATURE children of wrath.**

And think about it this way. Who sets the standard for good and how much good would you have to do to be resurrected to life as compared to how much evil you do. Is it 51 to 49% good over evil.

When I share the gospel and I ask someone ‘do you think you are a good person’ 99 out of 100 will say ... yes. *Go into more detail here.*

So Jesus here isn’t talking about how good someone is in order to get to heaven, it says **those who have done good**. He is talking about doing good or excellent things that show you have already passed from death to life at salvation and your good works from a changed, transformed, converted heart, are the evidence of that change and salvation resulting in doing good.

And only Christ knows the motive of the heart for what we do and why we do it and that is why He judges justly and knows who is doing religious work and who is genuinely born again and working for and serving God and others.

It is the same way with those **who have done evil**, who have done worthless, meaningless things because their hearts have never been transformed by the saving grace of Jesus Christ. They are still dead in their sins and can do no good whatsoever, because they are enemies of God because of their wicked works **Colossians 1: 22** says.

We saw a similar contrast back in **John 3: 19 – 21** read.

Jesus says ‘the group that hears My words and believes in Him who sent Me shall not come into judgment but has passed from death to life’ and on that day of judgment they will be raised to everlasting life and enjoy all the glories of heaven.

Jesus says ‘the group that does not hear My words and believe in Me and Him who sent Me is still dead while they live and when they die, they will die in their sins and on that day they too will be raised, but they will be sent to **everlasting condemnation**.

In **Matthew 25: 46** Jesus said **and these will go away into EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT, but the righteous into everlasting life.** What about you?

2nd Thessalonians 1: 8 says of those who **do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, these shall be punished with EVERLASTING destruction from the presence of the Lord ...**

And like what was read earlier in **Revelation 20: 15, 10** **anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. Verse 10 says and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.**

Is your name written in the Lamb's book of life and are you going to be a part of the resurrection of life?

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John 5: 24 – 30

Resurrection to Life or to Condemnation #2

Introduction and Review:

John 5: 16, 18, John 12: 48

Verse 24 He who hears My words and believes ...

John 5: 39, John 1: 1 – 3, 14, 1st John 1: 1, John 8: 51

James 2: 18, James 1: 22, Matthew 7: 24, John 3: 18

John 3: 36, Romans 8: 1, 5: 12, Ephesians 2: 1

Verse 25 The hour is coming and now is ...

1st Timothy 5: 6, Matthew 8: 22, John 17: 20

2nd Corinthians 5: 20

Verse 26 The Father and Son have life in Themselves

John 14: 6, John 1: 3 – 4

Verse 27 Because He is the Son of Man

The only One who can judge

Verse 28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming...

Ephesians 1: 4 – 6, Philippians 3: 10, Romans 8: 11

Verse 29 Resurrection of life or condemnation

2nd Corinthians 5: 8, 1st Thessalonians 4: 15 – 17

Revelation 20: 4 – 6, 11 – 15, Isaiah 64: 6

Romans 3: 10 – 18, Ephesians 2: 1 – 3

Colossians 1: 22, John 3: 19 – 21, Matthew 25: 46

2nd Thessalonians 1: 8, Revelation 20: 10, 15

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Romans 3: 10 – 18, Ephesians 2: 1 – 3

Colossians 1: 22, John 3: 19 – 21, Matthew 25: 46

2nd Thessalonians 1: 8, Revelation 20: 10, 15