Are you Ready for the Resurrection? John 5:24-29

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.

- 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
- 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 New King James Version. (1982). (Jn 5:25–29). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Introduction:

An "atheist church" in North London is proving a big hit with non-believers. Does it feel a bit like a new religion?

Not many sermons include the message that we are all going to die and there is no afterlife.

But the Sunday Assembly is no ordinary church service.

Launched last month, as a gathering for nonbelievers, it is, in the words of master of ceremonies Sanderson Jones, "part foot-stomping show, part atheist church, all celebration of life".

A congregation of more than 300 crowded into the shell of a deconsecrated church to join the celebration on Sunday morning.

Instead of hymns, the non-faithful get to their feet to sing along to Stevie Wonder and Queen songs. (another one bites the dust"

There is a reading from Alice in Wonderland and a power-point presentation from a particle physicist, Dr Harry Cliff, who explains the origins of antimatter theory.

The audience - overwhelmingly young, white and middle class - appear excited to be part of something new and speak of the void they felt on a Sunday morning when they decided to abandon their Christian faith. Few actively identify themselves as atheists.

The number of people declaring themselves to be of "no religion" in England and Wales has increased by more than six million since 2001 to 14.1 million, according to the latest census. That makes England and Wales two of the most unreligious nations in the Western world.

A Banner on the Building where they meet says"

"There's Probably no God

Now Stop Worrying and Enjoy Your Life"

There are currently 7.9 **billion people** alive today and the Population Reference Bureau estimates that about **107 billion people** have ever lived. This means that we are nowhere near to having more alive than dead. In fact, there are 15 dead people for every person living.

If you are breathing and your heart is beating, you are most likely alive

but given enough time you will be dead.

Your heart will stop beating and you will stop breathing and you body will cease to be alive.

There will be a funeral, and family and friends will gather around and say, boy doesn't he look natural and mourn your departure.

And if time allows, your family and friends will all die too.

The leading causes of Death are

- Heart disease 17.9 million each year
- Stroke
- COPD
- Lower Respiratory infections
- Neonatal Conditions
- Trachea and Lung Cancers
- Alzheimers and Dementias
- Diabetes rising 70% since 2000
- Kidney Disease

According to WHO, every year in the world there are an estimated 40-50 million abortions. This corresponds to approximately 125,000 abortions per day.

These are reasons people die, But it is not the ultimate cause of death We Die because God Said So.

Genesis 2:16

- 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;
- 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

A preacher once said, It was not the apple in the tree that caused the problem, but the Pair on the ground

Death is Real, The Bible says we are appointed to it. **Heb. 9:27**

Some might say, How depressing, I come to church and Im expecting to be encouraged and all I hear about is Death

Well, I was setting the stage for some GOOD news

Our passage tell us some great news The Certainty of the Resurrection.

Without the resurrection, it is quite certain there would have been no Christian church. With the ignominious death of their Master, His disciples were utterly confused and afraid for their own lives. There is no possibility that they could have continued as teachers of the Nazarene's doctrines, and even less that others could have been persuaded to follow them, in those circumstances.

What are some Evidences of the Resurrection

The Empty Tomb

The first evidence the disciples had for the resurrection was that of the empty tomb, and this evidence is still unanswerable

The Appearances of Christ

Not only was the tomb empty, but the disciples actually saw their resurrected Lord, on at least ten separate occasions after He left the tomb. These appearances were probably in the following order:

- 1 To Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18; Mark 16:9)
- 2 To the other women (Matthew 28:8-10)

- 3 To Peter (Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5)
- 4 To the two on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35; Mark 16:12)
- 5 To ten of the disciples (Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-29)
- 6 To all eleven disciples, eight days later (John 20:24-29)
- 7 To seven disciples by the Sea of Tiberias (John 21:1-23)
- 8 To five hundred followers (1 Corinthians 15:6)
- 9 To James (1 Corinthians 15:7)
- 10 To the eleven, at the ascension (Acts 1:3-12)

The Witness of the Apostles

Now it is completely impossible that the apostles could have preached and written as they did unless they were absolutely sincere and under deep conviction of the truth of what they preached. They had instantaneously changed from craven runaways to bold Spirit-filled proclaimers of Christ and the resurrection. Such preaching cost them the loss of their possessions, intense persecution, and finally the loss of their lives, but they kept preaching as long as strength permitted. Multitudes who believed what they were preaching suffered the same persecutions.

No wonder then, in view of the combined evidences of the empty tomb, the numerous appearances, the change in the disciples, and the authenticity of the records, not to mention the testimony of two thousand years of Christian history, that such a man as Thomas Arnold, formerly Professor of History at Rugby and Oxford, one of the world's great historians, could say:

"I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better, fuller evidence of every sort, to the understanding of a fair inquirer, than the great sign which God hath given us that Christ died, and rose again from the dead."1

In like manner, Simon Greenleaf, one of the most skilled legal minds ever produced in this nation, top authority on the question of what constitutes sound evidence, developer of the Harvard Law School, after a thorough evaluation of the four Gospel accounts from the point of view of their validity as objective testimonial evidence, concluded:

"It was therefore impossible that they could have persisted in affirming the truths they had narrated, had not Jesus actually risen from the dead, and had they not known this fact as certainly as they knew any other fact."2

The Resurrection IS Certain

IT Happened

I heard a story the other day about a man that went on vacation to the Holy Land with his wife and mother-in-law. Half way through their trip, the mother-in-law dies, so this guy goes to an undertaker who explains that they can ship the body home, but it will cost \$5,000 or they can bury her in the Holy Land for \$150.

The son-in-law says, "Let's just go ahead and ship her home." The undertaker said, "Are you sure? That is an awfully big expense and I can assure you we do a very nice burial here." The son-in-law said, "Look, two-thousand years ago they buried a guy here and three days later, he rose from the dead. I just can't take that chance!"

. Job asks this question in **Job 14:14**, "If a man dies, will he live again?" And then he answers with

confidence, "All the days of my struggle I will wait until my change comes

Lesson.

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.

- 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
- and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

I. The Spiritual Resurrection

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.

I believe this text is primarily referring to the spiritual resurrection Reasons

1. Context and Linguistics

Jn 5:21-22

- 21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to *them*, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.
- This is Sovereign granting of life. God will raise all from the dead in the end, but this seems to be selective and specific.
- 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.

This is clearly reference the granting of Salvation

has everlasting life. Present tense NOW passed from death into life.- Perfect Tense

This is a spiritual ressurection from spiritual death to life.

We are all dead before we are saved.

Lk 9:60

60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God."

Lk 15:32

32 It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found."

Ro 6:4

4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Eph 2:1-6

And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

- 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,
- 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.
- **4** But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
- 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
- 6 and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

Eph 5:14

14 Therefore He says:"Awake, you who sleep,Arise from the dead,And Christ will give you light."

Col 2:13

13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

Rev 3:1

3:1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

john piper

The reason we need a Savior is not just that we are in the doghouse with God and need to be forgiven for offending his glory. We need a Savior because we are in the morgue. In the doghouse you might whimper. You might say you are sorry. You might make some good resolutions. You might decide to cast yourself on the mercy of God. But what can you do if you are in the morgue?

A.W. Pink

To savingly believe in Christ is a supernatural act and is the **DIRECT PRODUCT** of a supernatural work of grace in the soul. Fallen and depraved man has no more power to come to Christ evangelically than he has merit of his own to entitle him to God's favour. He is as completely dependent on the Spirit's gracious operation within him as he is upon Christ's worthiness without him. Fallen man is spiritually **DEAD** (Eph. 2:1), and a dead soul cannot "cooperate," any more than a physical corpse can with an undertaker.

"The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are **SPIRITUALLY** discerned" (1 Cor. 2:14).

The "things Of the Spirit" signify contents of the Word of Truth, for they were penned under His immediate inspiration. The "natural man" is man in his fallen and unrenewed state while the sinner remains unregenerate, he "receiveth not" either the Divine Law or the Gospel. That requires a word of explication: the natural man can, and often does, receive the things of the Spirit in **THE LETTER** of them as so many propositions or statements, but he

cannot apprehend them as does one who has been made the subject of a miracle of grace. They are "foolishness"—absurd, unattractive, distasteful to him.

Yea, he "CANNOT KNOW THEM"— he is disqualified to perceive their verity and value; "because they are SPIRITUALLY discerned," and spiritual discernment he has none. The sinner has to be transformed from a natural into a SPIRITUAL man before he has any spiritual perception!

A corpse has no responsibility, but the natural man HAS! A corpse can perform no actions; different far is the case of the sinner. He is- active, active against **GOD!** Though he does not love Him (and he ought!), yet he is filled with enmity and hatred against Him. Thus spiritual death is not a state of passivity and inactivity, but one of aggressive hostility against God.

The average evangelical pulpit conveys the impression that it lies wholly in the power of the sinner whether or not he shall be saved. It is said that "God has done his part, now man must do his." Alas, what **CAN** a lifeless man do, and man by nature is "**DEAD** in trespasses and sins" [Eph 2:1]! If

this were really believed, there would be more dependence upon the Holy Spirit to come in with his miracle working power, and less confidence in **OUR** attempts to "win men for Christ."

LOST! How dismal is its sound! How much is summed up in that single word! It signifies . . . that the natural man is in a sinful, wretched, and perilous state,

that he is far astray from God,

that he has willfully and wantonly forsaken the path of duty.

Lost! A traveler from time to eternity, treading the road that leads to certain and everlasting destruction!

Lost! A creature who has forfeited the approbation and favor of his Maker, and is now an outcast from Him!

Lost! One who has squandered his substance in riotous living, and is now a spiritual bankrupt and pauper. He is out of the way of peace and blessing, and utterly incapable of finding his way back to it! Fearful beyond words, is the condition of fallen man. His case is as hopeless as that of a dying person

whose disease is incurable. A lost child is a pitiful object — but what mind can estimate or pen depict the tragedy of a lost soul? Lost now, lost forever — unless a sovereign God intervenes and performs a miracle of mercy for its recovery!

Man is lost positively, in that he is not what he should be. He is . . .

a defiled creature, a guilty criminal, a child of disobedience!

Lost judicially, under the curse of God's broken Law, sentenced to death, "condemned already" (John 3:18), the wrath of God abiding on him! (John 3:36)

Lost meritoriously, for his transgressions deserve eternal death, which is the wages of sin — and fully has he earned them.

Lost experientially in point of ability or power to recover himself, he is "not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can he be" (Romans 8:7). The moral impotency of man is such that he is utterly incapable of performing a single spiritual act: "Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil! (Jeremiah 13:23)

None will know how utterly man is lost, until they experience God's wrath in Hell, and can then measure the fearful distance they have departed from Him!

Thus man is lost in every way, and in every sense! Federally, by the imputation to him of the guilt of his representative's offense.

Effectually, by the transmission of a corrupt nature from his parents.

Actually, by his own evil conduct, "you have destroyed yourself" (Hosea 13:9).

Practically, by the forming of evil habits, so that now he is "held with the cords of his sins" (Proverbs 5:22).

Lost to God, for He has no love, no service, no glory from the unregenerate, so that they deprive Him of the honor of their creation.

Man is lost to himself . . .

to all reason and rational inducements, to right conceptions and perceptions,

to every consideration of God's claims upon him.

Lost to all sense of shame for his horrible condition in the eyes of the Holy One. So lost as to have "delight in wickedness" (2 Thessalonians 2:12).

Lost to piety and true happiness. Out of the way of holiness, peace, and security.

Lost in sin, in ignorance, and error.

Lost irretrievably, like a sheep that wanders farther and farther astray, until it perishes. Man is utterly unable to find his way back to God, for he is in total darkness — a wanderer in a pathless desert, perishing in a howling wilderness. What makes man's case yet worse, is that he has no desire to be recovered! He has perversely set himself up to be his own master, and stubbornly determines to please himself and carve out his own career.

Rather than return unto God, the unregenerate would take any road which leads farther away from Him. They resent His expostulations and resist the strivings of His Spirit. If not with their lips, with their hearts, they say unto God: "Depart from us — for we have no desire to know Your ways!" (Job 21:14). Yes, they would much prefer to be annihilated than yet meet God face to face, and have to give an

account of themselves to Him (Romans 14:12). They hate His holiness and dread His justice, while despising His goodness and abusing His mercies! Now, dear reader, if you be Christless, the above describes your woeful case, and, as we have stated, it sets forth the unerring diagnosis of God Himself.

when the dead <u>will hear</u> the voice of the Son of God; and those <u>who hear</u> will live.

Some people suffer from a strange hearing disorder—they can hear sounds but can't understand words. They have no trouble hearing a bird sing or a watch tick, but words are as unintelligible as if they were a foreign language. The source of the problem is not in the ears. It stems from an injury to the brain.

Jn 8:41–47

You do the deeds of your father."

Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God."

42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.

- 43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.
- 44 You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and *does not* stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.
- **45** But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.
- Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?
- 47 He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."

Jn 6:44-45

- 44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.
- 45 It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.

Jn 10:26-27

- 26 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.
- 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

1 Co 2:14

14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

II. The Submissive Redeemer

- 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
- This verse is deep and hard to understand but a few things we know
- 1. This is definitely related to the the Kenosis of Christ
- or the self emptying of Christ, the humiliation of Christ.

Php 2:5-8

- **5** Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
 - 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,
 - 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.
 - 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

2. The Father and the Son possess the same life

"He has granted" is a agrist verb, which is undefined action in the past Eternal

<u>Jn 1:4</u>

4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Jn 11:25

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.

<u>Jn 14:6</u>

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Col 3:4

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

<u>1 Jn 5:11–12</u>

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Jn 5:21

21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to *them*, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.

3. The Father Grants Authority and Judgment to the Son

Grants Authority

Jn 3:35

The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.

Da 7:13-14

- "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, *One* like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days....
 - 14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,

That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.

His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom *the one* Which shall not be destroyed.

Mt 11:27

All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*.

Mt 28:18

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Heb 2:7-8

You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands.

8 You have put all things in subjection under his feet."

For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing *that is* not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him.

Jn 17:1-2

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come.

- Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,
- 2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

His Authority expressed in judgement of Life and Death

<u>Jn 8:51</u>

Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death."

Jn 11:26

26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

4. This reveals a fatal flaw in :

Sabellianism in the Eastern church or Patripassianism in the Western church (also known as modalism, modalistic monarchianism, or modal monarchism) is the nontrinitarian or antitrinitarian belief that the Heavenly Father, Resurrected Son, and Holy Spirit are three different modes or aspects of one monadic God, as perceived by the believer, rather than three distinct persons within the Godhead—that there are no real or substantial differences among the three, such that there is no substantial identity for the Spirit or the Son

The Father gives to the Son. You cannot give something to one who does not exist.

- I. The Spiritual Resurrection
- II. The Submissive Redeemer
- **III. The Physical Resurrection**
- 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.

erchetai ἔρχεται is coming V-PIM/P-3S

hóra: a time or period, an hour

Original Word: ὥρα, ας, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: hóra

Phonetic Spelling: (ho'-rah)

Short Definition: an hour, season

Definition: (a) a definite space of time, a season, (b)

an hour, (c) the particular time for anything.

5610 *hốra* – properly, an *hour*; (figuratively) a *finite* "season"; *limited* time or opportunity to reach a goal (fulfill a purpose); a *divinely pre-set* time-period; a limited period to accomplish the Lord's specific purpose, i.e. "the hour" in which specific characteristics prevail exactly like that for a limited time.

mnémeion: a memorial, a monument

Original Word: μνημεῖον, ου, τό

Part of Speech: Noun, Neuter

Transliteration: mnémeion

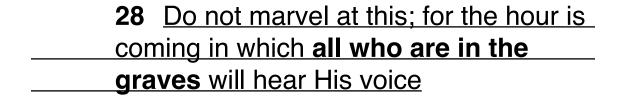
Phonetic Spelling: (mnay-mi'-on)
Short Definition: a tomb, sepulcher

Definition: a tomb, sepulcher, monument.

3419 *mnēmeion* (a neuter noun derived from 3451 / *mousikós*, "to remember, keep in memory") – a tomb (sepulchre).

5:28–29. Jesus said His hearers should **not be amazed at** His claim that right now those who believe pass from death into life (v. 24), because in the future there will be a universal physical resurrection at His command. This universal resurrection is clearly taught in Daniel 12:1–2. Other passages show that the resurrection to life, "the first resurrection," will occur in stages (the church at the Rapture, and Tribulation saints at the Lord's second coming at the end of the Tribulation), and that the resurrection of those who will **be condemned** will occur at the end of the Millennium (Rev. 20:11–15). John 5:28–29 is one of the few passages in this Gospel which expressly teaches eschatology.

Blum, E. A. (1985). John. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 291). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.



This is an amazing statement. Every human being who has every lived and died will be resurrected Lost or saved

Adam and Eve

Cain and Abel

Noah, Shem, Ham and Japheth,

the millions of men women and children that died in fate flood

Lot and his wife and daughters

All who died in Sodom and Gomorah

Abraham, and Isaac

Jacob and Esau

Moses and Arron and all the Egyptions and

Pharaohs

Rahab and Jezebel

Daniel and Ezekiel, Isaiah, Jeremiah

Nebuchadnezzar and Beltashazar

Mathew, Mark, Luke and John, Peter, Stephen and John

Herod, Pilate, and Judas

Paul, and Barnabas

Caligula, Nero, Domitian,

Augustine, and all the Roman Catholic Popes

Martin Luther

John Calvin,

Bloody Mary

Michael Angelo

Isaac Newton

Jonathan and Sarah Edwards and all there children

George Whitfield

Charles Spurgeon and all his Arminians Enemies

George Washington

Abraham Lincoln

Joseph Stalin

Adolf Hitler

John Kennedy

Ted Kennedy

Marolyn Monroe

Micheal Jackson

Elvis Presley

Nancy Reagan

Princess Diana

Johnny Cash

Anthonin Scalia

Madalyn Murray O'Hair

Osama Bin Ladin

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy Founder of Christian Science who taught death was not real

Da 12:2

12:1 "At that time Michael shall stand up,

The great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your people;

And there shall be a time of trouble,

Such as never was since there was a nation, *Even* to that time.

And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book.

2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake,

Some to everlasting life,

Some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Believers

<u>1 Co 15:51–52</u>

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

<u>1 Th 4:14–17</u>

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

- 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.
- 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
- 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Unbelievers

Re 20:12-13

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 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.
- 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 words those who have done good and those who have done evil (ta phaula, "worthless things"; cf. 3:20) by themselves might imply a salvation by good deeds or damnation because of evil deeds, but a consideration of John's theology as a whole forbids this (cf. 3:17–21; 6:28–29). Those who are truly born again do live a different kind of life. They obey Him (14:15), they abide in Him (15:5–7), and they walk in the light (8:12; 1 John 1:7). They are saved by the Lamb of God who, as their substitutionary Sacrifice, takes away the penalty of their sin. Salvation is by faith in Christ. Damnation is because of rejection of God's Son (John 3:36).

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Romans 4:2 (NKJV)

² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

Romans 3:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Romans 3:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

⁹ who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

Titus 3:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

Ro 2:6-10

- who "will render to each one according to his deeds":
 - 7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;
 - **8** but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath,
 - **9** tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;
- 10 but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Conclusion

One of the most amazing and convincing proofs of the Resurrection beyond

1. The empty tomb

- 2. The Witnesses of the Resurrected Christ
- 3. The Witness of the writings of the Gospels
- 4. The Existence of the church
- 5. The extra-biblical witness
- The profound change and radical repentance of the disciples who where filled with fear and dread at the death of Christ John 20:19 (NKJV)
- ¹⁹ Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the <u>doors were shut where the</u> <u>disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews,</u> Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."

and then the willingness to boldly die for him.

- If He where still dead, and they had hidden the body... how do you explain the bold preaching and willingness to die horrible deaths of the disciples......
- Andrew: (brother of Peter) Martyrdom by crucifixion (bound, not nailed, to an "X-shaped" cross) at Patræ, Achaia [southern Greece].

- Hung alive for two days, exhorting spectators all the while.
- Bartholomew (Nathaniel): Martyrdom by being skinned alive and crucified, head downward
- by the idolaters of Armenia (Western Asia near Turkey). The most travelled of the Disciples after Jesus death, Preached the Gospel in Mesopotamia [Iraq], Persia [Iran], Ethiopia, Arabia and India.
- James the Greater (son of Zebedee / brother of John): Beheaded or stabbed with a sword by Herod Agrippa around 44 AD near Palestine and not far from where he was a local missionary to the Jews in Judea. His accuser was converted by James' courage & the two were beheaded together.
- James the Lesser [son of Alphaeus]: Was first Bishop of Jerusalem Martyred in his early 90's by being thrown from a pinnacle of the Temple at Jerusalem, then stoned and head bashed in with club.
- John (The Beloved) (son of Zebedee / brother of James): Natural Death The only apostle who did not meet a martyrs death. Banished by Roman Emperor Domitian to Isle of Patmos where penned Revelation, the last book in the

- Bible. Was later freed & went to preach inTurkey and died at 100.
- at city of Edessa [Turkey] while on a missionary trip that went to Persia (Iran).
- Matthew (Levi): Martyred about 60 AD by being staked and speared to the ground. Preached the Gospel in Ethiopia (Africa) and was killed for questioning the morals of the king.
- Simon Peter (The Rock /Petra): Martyrdom by <u>crucifixion at Rome by Nero. Crucified around</u> <u>68 AD up-side-down at his request because he</u> <u>did consider himself worthy to be crucified like</u> Jesus.
- Philip: Said to have been tortured, impaled by iron hooks in his ankles and hung upside down to die. preaching to death 54 AD in Heliopolis, Egypt. Preached in Phrygia which was in the Roman Province of Asia near Ephesus [Turkey].
- Simon [The Canaanite]: Called "The Zealot" because he was associated with that sect. Thought to have ministered mostly in Jordan. Martyred by crucifixion in Britain in 74AD and then sawn in half.
- · Thomas [Didymus] : Martyred thrust through by spear in India .Preached the Gospel in Parthia

- [Iran] and in Kerala, [southern India] where yet today the Mar Thoma Church exists.
- Mark (John Mark): Was dictated to writing the Book of Mark. Martyred - dragged to death.
- Luke: The Physician. Wrote Luke and The Acts.
 Was hanged on an olive tree,
- · Matthias [Disciple who filled the place of Judas Acts 1:20-26]: Was stoned and beheaded at Jerusalem. ·
- **Apostle Paul** (Saul): Wrote half of the New Testament was <u>beheaded by Emperor Nero at</u> Rome.
- James (The half-brother of Jesus): Thrown some 100 feet off a wall - done to him after he repeatedly refused to deny his faith in Jesus. He survived the fall and was beat him to death with clubs.