

INTRODUCTION

1. I want to invite you to turn with me in your Bibles to John chapter 5.
2. We are looking again at that chapter as we examine this morning verses 25-29.
3. It is here in these 5 verses where Jesus talks about *the two resurrections*.
4. Read John 5:25-29.
5. The Bible teaches that there is a resurrection of the dead.
6. From both the Old and the New Testament, it has always been the understanding of the dead rising again.
7. 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”.
8. He believed in a resurrection.
9. He didn’t believe everything ended at the grave but that’s when “change comes.”
10. All people, both believers and unbelievers, will one day be raised from the dead. Everyone will live forever, consciously and individually.

The Two Resurrections

John 5:25-29 (Preached 6/8/08) © 2008

Dr. Steve Hereford, Pastor-Teacher

11. As Job other Old Testament saints believed in a physical bodily resurrection.
12. In Genesis 22 when Abraham was told to go to Mount Moriah to sacrifice his son Isaac, he told the young men in verse 5, “Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will gove over there; and we will worship and return to you.”
13. He was confident that both he and Isaac would return from the sacrifice because he knew “that God is able to raise people even from the dead” (Heb.11:19), and would do so, if it was necessary to keep His Word.
14. Daniel said in Daniel 12:2, “Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace *and* everlasting contempt.”
15. Job again said in Job 19:25-27, “As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth. ²⁶ Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God; ²⁷ whom I myself shall behold, And whom my eyes will see and not another. My heart faints within me!”
16. The New Testament also teaches a physical bodily resurrection.
17. Paul said in Philippians 3:20-21, “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the

The Two Resurrections

John 5:25-29 (Preached 6/8/08) © 2008

Dr. Steve Hereford, Pastor-Teacher

Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹ who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”

18. He also wrote in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.”
19. To the Corinthians he said in 1 Corinthians 15:51-53, “Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will 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 imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.”
20. Jesus not only spoke of the resurrection but He raised the dead.
21. We hear Him in John 11 say at the tomb of Lazarus, “Lazarus, come forth.”
22. Verse 44 says, “The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’”

The Two Resurrections

John 5:25-29 (Preached 6/8/08) © 2008

Dr. Steve Hereford, Pastor-Teacher

23. We saw in our last study where Jesus raised the synagogue official's daughter from the dead in Matthew 9:18-25.
24. We also saw in Luke 7:11-15 where he raised a man from the dead who had lived in the city of Nain.
25. The apostles also preached the resurrection.
26. Acts 4:2 records that the Jewish authorities were "greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead."
27. Not only did the apostle's preach the resurrection from the dead but Peter in Acts 9 does this very thing.
28. Acts 9:36-42 says, "Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated *in Greek* is called Dorcas); this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did. ³⁷ And it happened at that time that she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her body, they laid it in an upper room. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, having heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, "Do not delay in coming to us. ³⁹ So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them. ⁴⁰ But Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed, and turning to the body, he

The Two Resurrections

John 5:25-29 (Preached 6/8/08) © 2008

Dr. Steve Hereford, Pastor-Teacher

said, 'Tabitha, arise.' And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹ And he gave her his hand and raised her up; and calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. ⁴² It became known all over Joppa, and many believed in the Lord."

29. As we come to John chapter 5, Jesus is still responding to the Jews who had accused Him of breaking the Sabbath when He healed the cripple man at Bethesda.
30. He responds in verses 17-24 by saying that He was equal to God in His Person (vv.17-18), His works (vv.19-20), His power and sovereignty (v.21), His judgment (v.22) and His honor (vv.23-24).
31. Now in verses 25-29, He further illustrates those truths, presenting both the spiritual resurrection of believers and the physical resurrection that awaits everyone.
32. Here the Messianic claims of Jesus stand out most clearly. He is the Son of Man; He is the life-giver and the life-bringer; He will raise the dead to life and, when they are raised, He will be their judge.¹
33. Notice first in verses 25-26 *the spiritual resurrection*.

¹*The Gospel of John : Volume 1*, ed. William Barclay, lecturer in the University of Glasgow, The Daily study Bible series, Rev. ed. (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 2000, c1975). 192.

I. The Spiritual Resurrection (vv.25-27)

Jesus begins verse 25 the same way He began verses 19 and 24 with “truly, truly” or amen, amen.

This again introduces an emphatic, unarguable declaration by Jesus to assure His hearers that what He was about to say to them was true.

He says, “Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is *the* Son of Man.”

In verse 25 He references “the dead” and in verse 28 “all who are in the tombs.” Both will “hear the voice of the Son of God.” Both will rise. One to life and the other to judgment.

In verse 25 He is speaking of those who are spiritually dead while in verse 28 those who are physically dead.

The spiritually dead are those who are “dead in trespasses and sins” (Eph.2:1).

The Bible says...

A. The Spiritually Dead will Rise in the Future (v.25a)

He says, “the hour is coming”

1. This is a reference to a future spiritual resurrection under the preaching of the Apostles

a) It began at Pentecost – Acts 2

After Peter preached the those who were at Jerusalem, verse 37 says, “they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brethren, what shall we do?’”

b) Luke records what follows in verses 38-41:

³⁸Peter *said* to them, “‘Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹‘For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.’ ⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation!’ ⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.”

The Two Resurrections

John 5:25-29 (Preached 6/8/08) © 2008

Dr. Steve Hereford, Pastor-Teacher

- c) Verse 47 says that the “Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.”
 - d) After the healing of the lame man in the temple in chapter 3, Peter preaches his second message. Acts 4:4, says that “many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.”
2. This is also a reference to a future spiritual resurrection under the preaching of all of God’s preachers
- a) In Acts 8, God used Philip to preach His Word and God raised many who were spiritually dead:

Verse 12 says “they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, [and] they were...baptized, men and women alike.”

Verses 26-39 records him talking with an Ethiopian eunuch and the eunuch responds by stating that he believed “that Jesus Christ is the Son of God...and he was baptized” (vv.37-38).

- b) Acts 11:19-24 says, “So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone.²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and *began* speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus.²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.²² The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch.²³ Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and *began* to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain *true* to the Lord;²⁴ for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.”
- c) After the conversion of Paul, Acts 9:20 says “Immediately he *began* to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, ‘He is the Son of God.’”

Through Paul’s preaching of God’s Word “as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed” (Acts 13:48).

The Two Resurrections

John 5:25-29 (Preached 6/8/08) © 2008

Dr. Steve Hereford, Pastor-Teacher

Not only does Jesus refer to a spiritual resurrection in the future under the preaching of God's Word but He also says...

B. The Spiritually Dead will Rise Now (vv.25b-27)

He says, "The hour is coming and now is."

This phrase first appears in 4:23 and the second part, "and now is" refers to Jesus' public ministry.

He has already stated in verse 24, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

1. This is a reference to His public preaching. Those who heard His word and believed "passed out of death into life."
2. John has already told us about those who were spiritually resurrected under Jesus' preaching:
 - a) John 1:12 says, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name."

The Two Resurrections

John 5:25-29 (Preached 6/8/08) © 2008

Dr. Steve Hereford, Pastor-Teacher

- b) John the Baptist said in John 1:34, “I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.”
- c) Andrew said to his brother Simon in John 1:41, “We have found the Messiah.”
- d) Philip told Nathanael in John 1:45, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and *also* the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”
- e) After Nathanael heard Jesus He believed and said in verse 49, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.”
- f) After Jesus met with a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus in John 3 believed according to John 7:50.
- g) In John 4, after the woman of Sychar had a conversation with Jesus, she believed (v.29). After her the whole city (v.41) proclaiming that “this One is indeed the Savior of the world” (v.42).
- h) In John 4:46-53 after Jesus heals a royal official’s son, verse 50 said, “he believed.”

The Two Resurrections

John 5:25-29 (Preached 6/8/08) © 2008

Dr. Steve Hereford, Pastor-Teacher

- i) When the gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and God opens the heart, the spiritually dead rise from spiritual death.
 - 1) Paul says in Ephesians 2:1-5, “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).”
 - 2) In verses 11-13, he further tells the Ephesians to “remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," *which is* performed in the flesh by human hands— ¹² *remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth

The Two Resurrections

John 5:25-29 (Preached 6/8/08) © 2008

Dr. Steve Hereford, Pastor-Teacher

of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

- 3) The story of the prodigal son also illustrates one who was dead and now lives:

Luke 15:24 says, “For this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’ And they began to celebrate.”

In the course of Jesus’ ministry those who were spiritually dead did *hear the voice of the Son of God*, and those who obeyed it did live. This comes very close to the declaration in the Synoptic Gospels that the Kingdom of God has arrived. In Jesus Christ not only God’s rule, but God’s life, have come into the world, and those who are obedient to his message share in this life now.²

²Barclay Moon Newman and Eugene Albert Nida, *A Handbook on the Gospel of John*, Helps for translators; UBS handbook series (New York: United Bible Societies, 1993], c1980). 158.

The Two Resurrections

John 5:25-29 (Preached 6/8/08) © 2008

Dr. Steve Hereford, Pastor-Teacher

That is the testimony of those who have believed. They experience His life now. They are “in Christ” and live by His Spirit.

Jesus again makes Himself equal with God when He says in verses 26-27, “For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.”

He already said in verses 21-22, “For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son.”

William MacDonald says, “Not only has God decreed that the Son should have life in Himself, but He also **has given Him authority** to be Judge of the world. The power to judge has been given to Jesus **because He is the Son of Man**. The Lord is called both Son of God and **Son of Man**. The title *Son of God* is a reminder to us that the Lord Jesus is one of the Members of the holy Trinity, one of the Persons of the Godhead. As Son of God, He is equal with the Father and with the Holy Spirit, and as Son of God, He gives life. But He is also **the Son of Man**. He came into this world as a Man, lived here among men, and died on the cross as a Substitute for men and women. He was rejected and crucified when He came into the world as a Man. When He comes again, He will come to judge

His enemies and to be honored in this same world where He was once so cruelly treated. Because He is both God and Man, He is perfectly qualified to be Judge.”³

In verses 28-29 Jesus also speaks of...

II. The Physical Resurrection (vv.28-29)

This passage is not speaking of one resurrection but two: *The resurrection of life* and *the resurrection of judgment*.

Notice first...

A. The Resurrection of Life (vv.28-29a)

Jesus says, “Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice,²⁹ and will come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life.”

Albert Barnes says, “In the resurrection the righteous will be raised up to the full enjoyment and perpetual security of that life. It is also called the resurrection of life, because there shall be no more *death*, [Revelation 21:4](#). The enjoyment of God himself and of his works; of the society of the angels and of the redeemed; freedom from sickness, and sin, and dying, will constitute the life of the just in the resurrection. The resurrection is also called the resurrection

³William MacDonald and Arthur Farstad, *Believer's Bible Commentary : Old and New Testaments* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1995). Jn 5:27.

of the just ([Luke 14:14](#)), and the first resurrection, [Revelation 20:5,6](#).”⁴

A.W. Pink says of those who are part of the resurrection of life have “done good” [and that] is a characteristic description of them. It has reference to their walk which manifests the new nature within them. In the previous verses (24, 25) we have had life, eternal life, imparted to the spiritually dead by the sovereign power of the Son of God. This is His own life which is communicated to them. The Christ-life within is seen by Christ-like acts without. This is forcibly and beautifully brought out in the language which the Lord Jesus here uses when referring to His people. Just as in Acts 10:38 the apostle sums up the earthly life of Christ by saying He “went about doing good ,” so here the Lord Jesus speaks of His own as “they that have done good ,” that is, have manifested His own life. These will come forth at the time of His appearing (1 Corinthians 15:23; Thessalonians 4:16); come forth “unto a resurrection of life” for then they shall enter fully and perfectly into the unhindered activities and joys of that life which is life indeed.”⁵

1. We are not saved by good deeds but because we are saved we do good deeds

⁴ Albert Barnes, *Notes on the New Testament Explanatory and Practical*, ed. Robert Frew WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "John 5".

⁵ A.W. Pink, *The Gospel of John*.
http://www.godrules.net/library/pink/NEWpink_a18.htm

The Two Resurrections

John 5:25-29 (Preached 6/8/08) © 2008

Dr. Steve Hereford, Pastor-Teacher

- a) Paul said in Titus 3:3-5, “For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared, ⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.”
 - b) Ephesians 2:10 says, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”
 - c) Jesus said in John 15:8, “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and *so* prove to be My disciples.”
 - d) He continued in verse 16 by telling His disciples: “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.”
2. The “resurrection of life” is promised by Jesus to those who believe
- a) Jesus said in John 6:39-40, “This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the

The Two Resurrections

John 5:25-29 (Preached 6/8/08) © 2008

Dr. Steve Hereford, Pastor-Teacher

last day. ⁴⁰ ‘For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.’”

- b) He said in verse 44, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.”
- c) He also said in verse 54, “He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

Jesus speaks of another resurrection. It is called...

B. The Resurrection of Judgment (v.29b)

He says to “those who committed evil deeds” they will experience “a resurrection of judgment.”

According to verses 28-29 everyone will be raised from the dead and will fall into one of two classes: life or judgment.

Craig Keener says, “The Old Testament (Dan 12:2) and much of ancient Judaism taught a resurrection of

resurrection ***Resurrection.** Although some scholars earlier in the twentieth century derived the idea of Jesus’ resurrection from Greek mystery cults, it is now widely understood that early Christian belief shared little in common with the Mysteries’ myths, which simply reenacted a seasonal revivification of fertility. Rather, Jesus’ resurrection was rooted in a Jewish hope,

The Two Resurrections

John 5:25-29 (Preached 6/8/08) © 2008

Dr. Steve Hereford, Pastor-Teacher

both the righteous and the unrighteous, which would take place at the last day. (Some circles in ancient Judaism taught only a resurrection of the righteous; others taught that the wicked would be resurrected only temporarily for judgment and then destroyed; still others held that the wicked would be resurrected to eternal judgment.)”⁶

The phrase “those who committed the evil deeds” describes those who have never put their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus, and consequently whose lives have been evil in the sight of God. These will be raised to stand before God and to be sentenced to eternal doom.⁷ This is the judgment to come that John the Baptist refers to in Matthew 3:7.

which in turn was rooted in notions of God’s covenant, promise and justice from early in Israel’s history. Most Palestinian Jews believed that God would resurrect the bodies of the dead (at least the righteous, and many believed also the wicked), at the end of the age (Dan 12:2). There was, however, never any thought that one person would rise ahead of everyone else; thus Jesus’ resurrection, as an inauguration of the future kingdom within history, caught even the disciples by surprise.

⁶Craig S. Keener and InterVarsity Press, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary : New Testament* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1993). Jn 5:28.

⁷William MacDonald and Arthur Farstad, *Believer's Bible Commentary : Old and New Testaments* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1995). Jn 5:29.

The Two Resurrections

John 5:25-29 (Preached 6/8/08) © 2008

Dr. Steve Hereford, Pastor-Teacher

1. He said to the Pharisees who came to his baptism, “Matthew 3:7, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”
2. Revelation 7 speaks of the Day of the Lord judgment that will come on all unbelievers but the ultimate judgment is spoken of in Revelation 20:11-15:

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

CONCLUSION

1. Which resurrection will you be a part of? The resurrection of life or of judgment?
2. Life comes from Jesus Christ.

The Two Resurrections

John 5:25-29 (Preached 6/8/08) © 2008

Dr. Steve Hereford, Pastor-Teacher

3. He is both the giver of life and the executioner of life.
4. If you haven't repented and surrendered you life to Him, I urge you to do so right now and flee the wrath that is to come.
5. Let's pray.