
JOHN: THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE

THERE IS LIFE IN THE SON

A message presented by Pastor Marc Minter
to First Baptist Church of Diana, TX on June 18, 2017

INTRODUCTION

As humans, we all know that mortality will prove itself to be our own personal disease. We may suppress this knowledge, and we may even fight hard against it, but we cannot deny it forever. As the only human to ever conquer death, Jesus is the authority on the subject, and He made some blatantly direct statements about death and life. In this message, we will consider the weighty warning and the profound promise of Jesus' message regarding life and the final resurrection.

JOHN 5:25-29 (ESV)

25 Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, 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 also to have life in himself. 27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

THE POINT I'M AIMING AT TODAY:

There is Life in the Son... Death apart from Him... and this is for keeps.

MESSAGE OUTLINE:

- (1) THERE ARE 2 “RESURRECTIONS” HERE
- (2) THE WORD OF GOD/CHRIST CREATES LIFE
- (3) IN THE END ALL WILL BE RESURRECTED AND JUDGED
- (4) APPLICATION: WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS?

MESSAGE

(1) THERE ARE 2 “RESURRECTIONS” HERE

“...an hour is coming, and *is now here*, when *the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live*” (v25).

“Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when *all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out...*” (v28).

- **Jesus is talking about resurrection**
 - The dead will live... all in tombs (graves) will come out... resurrection of life... resurrection of death...
 - However, I think there are two kinds of “resurrection” here.

- **One resurrection is spiritual (3 reasons)**
 - “...the *dead will hear* the voice of the Son of God, and *those who hear will live*” (v25).
 1. This “*Resurrection*” is for “some”
 - The “some” is implied
 - “*those who hear will live*” implies that some will not hear and some will
 - Jesus just now said, “*whoever hears my word and believes... passes from death to life*” (v24).

2. This “*Resurrection*” is said to be “now here” and “coming”

- The language of *already* and *not yet*
 - Jesus says that those who do not believe in Him are “*condemned already*” (Jn. 3:18), but there is still a fuller sense in which condemnation is yet to come.
 - John tells us that the one who believes in Christ “*has eternal life*” (Jn. 3:36), but there is still a fuller sense in which eternal life is yet to come.
 - Jesus says that those who have “*eternal life*” have already “*passed from death to life*” (Jn. 5:24), but there is still a fullness of life yet to come.
- *Already* and *Not Yet* = the inauguration of the Christ’s eschatological kingdom
 - Christ is now Messiah, Savior, King, Lord, and Ruler of all, but there remains a final subjection of all things to Christ and under God (1 Cor. 15:24-25).¹

3. This “*Resurrection*” is in harmony with conversion language

- Natural, fallen man is spiritually “dead”
 - Apart from Christ, “*you were dead in trespasses*” and by nature a “*child of wrath*” (Eph. 2:1, 3).
 - Apart from Christ, “*you were dead in sins*” and cut off from the people of God (Col. 2:13).
 - The “*self-indulgent*” sinner is “*dead even while she lives*” (1 Tim. 5:6).

¹“21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24 **Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.** 25 **For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.** 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. 28 When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all” (1 Cor. 15:21–28).

- Those things we might do to earn God’s blessing are called “*dead works*” (Heb. 6:1, 9:14). And, conversely, the mere profession of faith – without the evidence of good works – is a “*dead*” faith (James 2:17, 26).
 - Natural man is dead, his works are dead, and his words are dead... He is dead and awaiting death.
- Spiritual, converted (regenerated) man is “alive”
 - “*But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ*” (Eph. 2:4–5).
 - “*And you, who were dead in your trespasses... God made alive together with [Christ], having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him*” (Col. 2:13–15).
 - Jesus said, “*whoever hears my word and believes... has passed from death to life*” (Jn. 5:24).
- **The other resurrection is physical and final (3 reasons)**
 - “*all* who are *in the tombs* will hear his voice and *come out*...” (v28).
 1. This “*Resurrection*” is for all
 - “*all... tombs*” or “*graves*” will be opened
 - There is none who will be left out
 - More on this in a bit...

2. This “Resurrection” is final

- “*those who have done good* to the resurrection of *life*, and *those who have done evil* to the resurrection of *judgment*” (v29).
 - This cannot be understood as anything other than the final judgment of all people everywhere.
 - The final evaluation of one’s life is in view here: the “good” will receive “life” and the “evil” will receive “judgment.”

3. This “Resurrection” uses eschatological language

- We hear similar language and see a familiar picture in the Great White throne judgment:
 - John is given a view to this final and eschatological judgment scene. He says, “*Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done*” (Rev. 20:11–13).

Summary: There are two “resurrections” here, one spiritual and the other physical/final, (Segue) and both are compelled by Christ’s word.

(2) THE WORD OF GOD/CHRIST CREATES LIFE

“25b 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 also to have life in himself.”

- **First, let's note the triune God reference (again)**
 - The Father has life in Himself (Jn. 5:26)
 - The Son has life in Himself (Jn. 5:26)
 - The Spirit has life in Himself.
 - He is called the “*Spirit of life*” (Rom. 8:2).
 - He “*gives life*” (Jn. 6:63).
 - He raised Christ to life, and He will raise all Christians to life as well (Rom. 8:11).

- **Second, Jesus (the Son) has life in Himself!**
 - Though this might seem redundant, it is worth considering this concept further... Jesus, is God the Son, and He has life in Himself.
 - “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men*” (Jn. 1:1-4).
 - To have Christ is to have life!
 - Apart from Christ, there is no life.

- **Third, He breathes life (creates it) through/by His word**
 - How do we become partakers in Christ's life?
 - How are we united with Christ?
 - How are we made alive and nourished by Christ?
 - HIS WORD!

- Jesus said, “*My words are spirit and life*” (Jn. 6:63).
- When asked if he too would leave Jesus after hearing a hard thing, Peter replied, “*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life*” (Jn. 6:68).
- When God is compared with all false deities, the distinguishing mark (above all others) is that the God of Scripture SPEAKS!
 - “*Set forth your case, says the LORD; bring your proofs, says the King of Israel. Let them bring [their idols], and tell us what is to happen. Tell us the former things, what they are, that we may consider them, that we may know their outcome; or declare to us the things to come. Tell us what is to come hereafter, that we may know that you are gods; do good, or do harm, that we may be dismayed and terrified. Behold, you are nothing, and your work is less than nothing...*” (Is. 41:21–24).

Summary: The triune God (Father, Son, and Spirit) has life in Himself, and He gives life through His Word. This is true at the beginning of faith, throughout your life, and it is true in the end.

(Segue) In fact, His powerful word will resurrect everyone!

(3) IN THE END ALL WILL BE RESURRECTED AND JUDGED

“an hour is coming when *all who are in the tombs will* hear his voice 29 and *come out*, those who have done *good* to the *resurrection of life*, and those who have done *evil* to the *resurrection of judgment*” (v28-29)

- **All will be resurrected**
 - You will either be alive when Christ splits open the sky at His final return or you will die...
 - For some death will come sooner than you ever expected.

- All of those who have died will be resurrected – and they shall stand before Christ (Matt. 25:31-32).²
 - Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, king Nebuchadnezzar, Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Herod (*king of Judea, who murdered all boys 2 years and younger to try to kill the Christ-child*), the Apostles (Paul, Peter, John, Philip, and the rest), Constantine, Genghis Khan, Christopher Columbus, Pope Leo X, Martin Luther, king Henry VIII, queen “Bloody” Mary, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Gandhi, Mother Teresa, Joseph Stalin, Adolf Hitler, General George Patton... and every actor, every business person, every musician, every outlaw, every good ol’ boy, and every person you can think of will stand before Christ to be judged.

- **Some will receive judgment**

- “those who have done *evil* to the *resurrection of judgment*”

- **This judgment will be thorough**

- Not one single evil deed will go unpunished.

“Do you suppose... that you will escape the judgment of God? ...do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience... because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury” (Rom. 2:3–8).

- **This judgment will be terrible**

- “*torment*” (Lk. 16:23, 28; Rev. 20:10); separation from God’s blessed presence – “*outer darkness*” (Matt. 22:13, 25:30).

² “31 When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 **Before him will be gathered all the nations**, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats” (Matt. 25:31-32).

- **This judgment will be forever**
 - *“these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life”* (Matt. 25:46).
 - If we believe in an eternal reward of life, we must – noting that Christ speaks of the punishment with identical language – also believe in an eternal judgment of death.

- **Some will receive life**
 - *“those who have done **good** to the **resurrection of life**”*
 - **This life will be comprehensive**
 - Reversal of death – and everything death means
 - Just as death came by way of sin, so the reversal of death is an indication of the reversal of sin and all its effects (Rom. 5:16-17)!
 - **This life will be unimaginably joyous**
 - We shall see Him! The beatific vision...
 - *“No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever”* (Rev. 22:3–5)
 - **This life will be forever**
 - *“they will reign forever and ever”* (Rev. 22:5)
 - *“the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides [remains/lives] forever”* (1 Jn. 2:17).
 - Jesus serves as the *“high priest”* for all those in Him *“forever”* (Heb. 7:24, 28).

Summary: Christ will one day raise all people from the dead, and they shall be judged by Him... Some receiving the reward of life, and others receiving the sentence of death.

(Segue) This reality should have a HUGE impact on us today!

(4) APPLICATION: WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS? “SO WHAT?”

1. If all are dead now (in need of spiritual resurrection), and the word of Christ is what brings them life, then...

- We Should be Prayerfully Evangelistic

2. If we who hope in Christ await a marvelous resurrection, which will bring us to life forevermore with our Redeemer and Savior, then...

- We Should be Unshakably Hopeful

3. If some of our friends, family, and neighbors are on their way to eternal and fiery judgment, then...

- We Should be Deliberately Candid

Major Point: There is Life in the Son... Death apart from Him... and this is for keeps.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

The Resurrection of the Christian by Octavius Winslow

<http://www.gracegems.org/W/r12.htm>

Resurrection Living by William D. Dennison

http://www.opc.org/new_horizons/NH01/04d.html

The Life-Giving Voice of the Son of God by John Piper

<http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-life-giving-voice-of-the-son-of-god>

The Two Resurrections by Aaron Orendorff (*technical exegesis – amillennial view*)

<https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/TheTwoResurrections.pdf>