

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 12TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

A JUST JUDGMENT (JOHN 5:24-30) ANYONE WHO HEARS AND BELIEVES

These synonymous terms should reveal the simplicity of the gospel. **We will be saved if we "take heed" of what Jesus says!**

- Instead of trying to pinpoint the exact point in a Believer's life that Salvation takes place, we need to "hear His word." **Are you doing what Jesus said** (John 14:15)? **Are you loving God and loving people** (Matthew 22:37-40)?

PASSED FROM DEATH TO LIFE

Jesus' word is powerful enough to heal a man's son from a distance, to heal a man paralyzed for 38 years, and to offer eternal life.

- If we hear and believe, we will not come under judgment and **pass from death to life**. The work that secures our salvation **was accomplished** on a cross, through Jesus, and **gives us assurance for the future**.

SPIRITUAL RESURRECTION

This is a present resurrection that "**has now come**" to those who believe. It is the offer of a new life here and now (2 Corinthians 5:17)!

- How we view Jesus not only determines our eternal destination, but it also affects us now. **Those who are spiritually dead hear his voice, and those who hear it will live.**

BODILY RESURRECTIONS

Life does not end at death. Our physical death gives way to the resurrection followed by judgment.

- **Those who heard His word and believed will receive a glorified body to enjoy the splendor of Heaven forever, but those who refused to hear and believe will receive a resurrection body to endure the atrocities of Hell forever.**

ARE THERE FOUR RESURRECTIONS?

The resurrections in this section should not be viewed independently but **all together as part of His resurrection**.

- **Since Jesus resurrected from death to life, we are resurrected from spiritual death to spiritual life, but a day is coming when we will receive our resurrection bodies.**

JESUS, THE SON OF...

The title **Son of God** shows Jesus' deity. Where our lives are derived, **His life is original. He has authority over judgment, and His judgment is just**.

- The title **Son of Man** shows Jesus' humanity and humility. It shows that **He is the heavenly figure in Daniel 7:13-14 to whom dominion was given**.

WITNESSES REJECTED (JOHN 5:31-40)

CALLING ON WITNESSES

Jesus has claimed equality with God, to give more than just His own account of who He is, Jesus will call three witnesses to testify about Him.

- In a court of law, the accused has an opportunity to speak on their behalf, which Jesus has. However, **O.T. law requires two or three witnesses to corroborate a claim** (Deuteronomy 19:15).

FIRST WITNESS

The first witness Jesus calls attention to is John the Baptizer. The religious leaders questioned J.B. and should know who he claimed Jesus to be.

- Jesus refers to J.B. as a "**burning and shining lamp**" because he was a true witness of Jesus, but his fame burned out as **they rejected his message**.

SECOND WITNESS

The second witness Jesus called attention to was His works. Every miracle or work of Jesus testified to His deity and the heart of God.

- Many were amazed or impressed by the miracles of Jesus but were unwilling to submit to Him. **They refused the witness of Jesus' works because they did not fit what they thought the Messiah would do.**

THIRD WITNESS

The third and final witness was the Word of God.

- This would have been a star witness because the Jewish people would have revered the Word of God, especially the word received through Moses. They pored over Scripture looking for eternal life yet missed what it said. **They rejected the witness because the word was written on their minds and not their hearts.**

ACCEPTING GLORY (JOHN 5:41-47)

"BUT I KNOW YOU"

Jesus ends His sermon by similarly condemning His accusers as He did in Cana after turning water into wine (John 2:24-25).

- He knew the hearts of the men before him. Jesus told them **their issue was not intellectual, but they had a heart issue. They loved the glory of people and completely rejected the glory of God.**

"YOU DON'T ACCEPT ME."

Jesus came to point people to the Father and was rejected, but **the Jewish people repeatedly fell for false messiahs who came and drew attention to themselves.**

- People followed these false claims because **they told them what they wanted to hear** (2 Timothy 4:3). They offered an easy life, political gain, and prosperity, while Jesus offered a cross.

THEY REJECTED JESUS AND THEREFORE MOSES

The Jewish people loved their tradition and their knowledge of Scripture. They revered Moses because he wrote the Pentateuch. Jesus said they stood accused by what they read because they didn't believe it.

- **Our acceptance or rejection of the Word stands as our accuser at the judgment.**

READING THE WORD

- We must have open eyes that lead to an open heart, but **it all starts with an open Bible.**
- **What are our intentions in studying the Word?**
- It is not enough to know what the Word says. **We must do what the Word says** (James 1:22) **and live out the Word.**

KNOWING THE WORD

- Knowing the Word will not produce righteousness. The shirts, tattoos, and bumper stickers do not make us righteous. Scripture on our kids' school walls will not make them righteous.
- **Does our knowledge of the Word make us puffed and proud or fill our hearts will love that builds up** (1 Corinthians 8:1)?

ARE WE WILLING?

- Jesus told the religious Jews, "**You pore over the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, and yet they testify about me. But you are not willing to come to me so that you may have life**" (5:39-40).
- **Whose honor do we seek?**
- **Are we willing to humble ourselves?**
- **Are we willing to submit?**

WHAT ARE WE SEEKING?

- "**Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and the one who knocks, the door will be opened**" (Matthew 7:7-8).
- **Whose will do we seek to accomplish? Are we seeking to accomplish our own will or the will of the One who sends us?**