

# The Only Way to Life

Jesus came into our world in order to defeat death. It is the great equalizer. All face it. All will experience it ... unless the Lord returns first. Death is the great equalizer. It is the final reality of this physical world marred by sin. This fact makes us uncomfortable. We all basically live in some form of denial regarding it. *Death is what happens to everyone else.* Jesus spoke of the reality of death quite often. He told us that death is not the end ... rather it is just the beginning ... it is a step into eternity. In our text, Jesus makes a resounding statement that He is the one who raises the dead and then judges all of them.

## I. Who is Jesus?

- A. John 5.16 - The religious establishment begins to persecute Jesus. Mainly because... *He was making Himself **equal** to God, 5.18.* Instead of backing off, He doubles down.
  - 1. 5.17 - He is equal to God in person
  - 2. 5.19-20 - He is equal to God in works
  - 3. 5.21 - He is equal to God in power
  - 4. 5.22 - He is equal to God in judgment or authority
  - 5. 5.23 - He is equal to God in honor
  - 6. 5.24 - He is equal to God in truth
- B. John 5.21-22: Jesus has the power to give life and God *has given all **judgment** to the Son..*

## II. John 5.25-26 - Spiritual Resurrection

- A. John 5.25: *Truly I tell 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**.*
  - 1. The time of redemption has begun. Jesus' ministry is in action. He is bringing spiritual life. See Luke 7.50; Mark 5.34; 10.52.
- B. Jesus lived to make dead people alive....
  - 1. This is a recurring theme of John's gospel: See 1.4; 3.15, 16, 36; 4.14; 5.39; 6.27, 33, 35, 68; 10.10, 28; 11.25; 20.31
  - 2. How do they receive that life?
    - a) John 5.24: *Truly I tell you, anyone who hears my word and **believes** him who sent me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life.*
    - b) Only those who hear and respond to His voice will come alive spiritually.
- C. Only Christ can give you life.
  - 1. John 14.6: *I am the way, the truth, and the **life**. No one comes to the Father except through me.*
  - 2. 1 John 5.11: *God has **given** us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*

## III. John 5.27-29 - Physical Resurrection

- A. John 5.27: *And he has granted him the right to pass judgment, because he is the **Son of Man**.*
- B. John 5.28-29 - Judgment is Coming... awakened to kneel before the King.
  - 1. 5.29a - *those who have done **good** things to a resurrection of life ...*
  - 2. 5.29b - *those who have done wicked things to a resurrection of **condemnation**.*
- C. How do I avoid hell and get home to heaven?
  - 1. John 5.24: *... anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has **eternal** life...*
  - 2. John 3.14b-15: *the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.*

## IV. As We Close...

- A. A day is coming ... where we will lay our trophies down ... and stand before the great I AM.
- B. Will you be one of those who enter into life?