



### **John 5:25-29** **The 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.

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

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.

While there have occasionally been groups like the Saducees who did not believe in an afterlife, most people regardless of their culture or religious affiliation have believed in the immortality of the soul, and indeed the bible does tell us that the human soul is immortal and does continue on after the death of the body. But what sets Christianity apart from most other religions, is that Christians believe not only in a afterlife for the Soul, but in an afterlife for the body as well. The Scriptures teach us that there is a day coming when the bodies of every person who has ever lived will be resurrected and reunited with their souls and that immediately following that resurrection will come the final judgment.

While of the most of the references to that resurrection, like the one we just read occur in the New Testament, there are references to it in the Old Testament as well. In Daniel 12:2 Daniel prophesies of the coming resurrection of the dead saying: ***"Daniel 12:2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt."***

And one of the most moving references to belief in the Resurrection that ever came from the mouth of a believer was spoken by Job in Job 19:25-27 ***For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; 26 And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, 27 Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!***

Even the Pharisees in Christ's time were expecting a general resurrection, they expected as Ezekiel 37 put it that the day would come when God would breath life again into the dry bones of the dead.

But to those who are aliens to the word of God, the doctrine of a bodily resurrection has always generally irritated them, for instance we read that as Paul was preaching in Athens on the Aeropagus, they heard him until he made mention of the resurrection of Christ, where we read: ***"And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter."***

As a result of that, some Christians have been willing to dispense with the idea of bodily resurrection, hoping to make the message of the faith more palatable. Even today, many will speak of the “spiritual resurrection” of Christ from the dead and that we too will be “spiritually” raised. But brothers and sisters bodily resurrection is not a negotiable that we can dispense with. The apostle Paul for instance spends an entire chapter in 1 Cor. 15 outlining in great detail the irrefutable evidence for the bodily resurrection of Christ, and then going on to say that *“And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up -- if in fact the dead do not rise.”* In other words, if Christ has not risen then that is the end of the Christian faith and the apostles are a pack of liars. Because Christ spoke of His bodily resurrection again and again. And he said that His rising again on the third day after His death would be the sure sign that he was the Messiah, and that what He had said was true, and that those who believed in Him would rise again to eternal life as well. **Simply put, a “Christian” who doesn’t believe in the bodily resurrection is not really a Christian.**

But while all of us are familiar with the details of Christ’s resurrection, what about ours? What did the one person who was qualified to teach about the resurrection say would happen on that day?

In verse 25 Jesus said the time was coming and now is when the dead would hear His voice, the voice of the Son of God, and that those who heard would live. Now we know that Jesus raised several people from the dead during his earthly ministry, and that always with the command of His voice. He says to the Son of the Widow of Nain *“Young man, I say to you, arise.”* And he gets up. He commands Lazarus to come forth and he does. But verse 25 isn’t just talking about physical deadness, it is talking about the even greater problem of man’s spiritual deadness. It is by hearing His voice calling us to faith, that we are raised from that death. As Peter confessed: *“You have the words of eternal life.”* But as we will see in a little while whether we are raised to eternal life or eternal death in the resurrection depends on whether we heard the voice of Christ in this present life.

Now all life comes from God, it is He who is the creator and sustainer of life. You and I don’t have the power of life withing ourselves, and we cannot grant it. We can’t even hold on to it. You could be the wealthiest or most powerful man on earth and yet you are entirely powerless to postpone the day of your own death, or hold on to your life while it is ebbing away, or give life to someone who has already died. Jesus though has the power, because He is one with the Father, and all that the Father has He gives to the Son, and that includes not only the power to raise the dead, but to judge them on the last day, because he is the Son of Man.

Now “son of man” in verse 27 doesn’t mean human, it is a great Messianic title, we see it Daniel 7:13 where Daniel sees “the Son of Man” come and receive all Dominion and Authority from the father. His is the Kingdom, and therefore it is His right to judge all men.

And so Jesus says the Hour is coming and approaches yet nearer every day, when all who are in the graves, and by that he means all who have died will hear his voice, just as Lazarus heard, and come forth.

Now this is where men really balk, how can men who have been dead for eons, who have been reduced to dust or ashes have their bodies reconstituted? How can God do this? Can the one who spoke the almost-infinite universe into being and who is even now governing even the smallest particles that compose it, who formed the first man out of the dust of ground not do it. Is he capable of the greatest wonders of creation and will he be thwarted in the operation of reconstituting the atoms of the dead?

Matt. 22:29 Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. As Jesus Himself said, in verse 28 do not marvel at this..."

It will happen *All will hear all will be raised* – but I hope you see that while all will be raised, there are two very different paths and only two that men will be raised to: a resurrection of life, and a resurrection of condemnation. A resurrection of the elect, and of the reprobate.

Now that status is not determined by your works, verse 29 is speaking of the principle that a tree is known by its fruit. Believers bring forth Good fruit in keeping with their nature, and unbelievers bring forth bad fruit. In any event in John 6:29 Jesus says this is the work that leads to salvation: ***"This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."***

Your status on the last day, and in which state you will be resurrected (then) will be determined by whether you did indeed believe in Jesus. And what a Contrast between these two resurrections:

The grave is either a bed in which our bodies rest till the trumpet awakens them or they are prisons, from which the condemned will be dragged to hear the just sentence of damnation pronounced against them.

### ***First Believers:***

Q37: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?

A37: The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness,[1] and do immediately pass into glory;[2] and their bodies, being still united to Christ,[3] do rest in their graves[4] till the resurrection.[5]

The believer's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19) and just as Jesus said of His own body in John 2:19 *"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."* So too he will raise up the body of every believer.

The bodies of all will express the inner character of the one who is resurrected.

How the redeemed shall be changed on that day, they shall shine as the sun

***43 "Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"***

Whatever defects or sicknesses will be gone forever, all deformities erased, and their outer beauty will finally match their inner beauty. Their bodies will be strong and fitted for celestial life. They will never again grow tired or wear out. ***16 "They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore"***

Then as well for the believer, the resurrection will be a time of great reunion: 1 Thess. 4:13 "But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

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

How we will rejoice to see one another on that day. How great will be the joy of believing parents who have laid children in the grave to see them raised up on that day, and not as infants, but fully grown and full of health. A day of great rejoicing!

**But for the reprobate, there will be no joy in that day, it will be a day of terror as they are brought forth to hear the sentence.** They would not hear the voice of Christ in life, they did not respond to the gospel call, but then when the trumpet sounds there will be no avoiding the voice of Christ then. They must come forth and answer Him.

*Rev. 6:15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,  
16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!  
17 "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"*

While the believer shall be raised incorruptible in bodies that will be transformed to match their inner beauty, the resurrection of the wicked is a different matter, then their outer appearance will match their inner deadness. Thomas Boston said: "The greatest beauties who now pride themselves in their comeliness of body, not regarding their deformed souls, will then appear with a ghastly countenance, a grim and death like visage. Their looks will be frightful, and they will be horrible speactacles, coming forth from their graves, like infernal furies from the pit."

As Isa. 66:24 puts it "And they shall go forth and look Upon the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, And their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh."

Look to the resurrection, then, as a thing that ever cometh, silently drawing nearer and nearer hour by hour. What then will be your state on that day, which category will you fall into?

You can know how you will fare on that day, by knowing your eternal state right now. Are you spiritually alive now? Do you hate sin and Love and trust Christ as you savior? Do you love the service of His worship, look forward to the day when the Sabbath will last for ever? Then you have nothing to fear, you are not condemned now and nothing will ever condemn you later.

But are you an unbeliever, even now are you sitting through the service as a heavy, monotonous drudge, something you do because you have to, not because you long to. Are prayers dull and boring, song uninspiring? Would you rather be watching TV or playing sports, do you spend your time fantasizing the service away. While others are hearing the words of life, are they bouncing off your head like BBs off a battleship?

And I know exactly how you feel, it was the same with me - my own spiritual resurrection

Do not fool yourself, you are condemned now, if you do not change you shall suffer the resurrection to condemnation, and an eternity in hell. Remember now is your seed time, as you sow, you shall reap. Do not forget on that day, that I warned you, and I pled with you to flee, and you have no one to blame but yourself.

But for you who are believers, you know you have nothing to fear, and for those of you who are perhaps approaching the day of your death, let me give you a word of cheer.

*“O believer grapple with death, and shall get the first fall ; but you shall rise again, and come off victorious at last. You must go down to the grave, but though it be your long home, it will not be your everlasting home. You will not hear the voice of thy friends there, but you shall hear the voice of Christ there. You may be carried thither with mourning', but shall come up from it rejoicing. Your friends indeed will leave you there, but thy God will not. What God said to Jacob concerning his going down to Egypt, (Gen. xlv. 3, 4.) he says to you, concerning your going down to the grave, "Fear not to go down—I will go down with thee,—and I will surely bring thee up again." O solid comfort ! O glorious hope ! Wherefore, comfort yourselves, and one another with these words, 1 Thes. 4:18.” – Thomas Boston*