

“The Gospel of John: The Coming Judgment”

Dr. Geoffrey Plummer
Calvary Baptist Church

February 5th, 2023

Scripture

John 5:24-30

“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.**

25“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.

26“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.

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

30“I can **do nothing on My own initiative**. As I hear, I judge; and **My judgment is just**, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

The Purpose for John’s Gospel

John 20:30-31

“Therefore, **many other signs Jesus also performed** in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

But these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that **believing** you may have life in His name.”

Many events in John not recorded elsewhere

Last week, we learned that Jesus spoke directly to the Jews that He was God -> **they began to persecute Him**

He used the phrase “Truly, Truly” (Verily, Verily) -> “I’m telling you the truth!” -> **LISTEN TO ME!**

Psalm 2:11-12

“Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling. **Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way**, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.”

Now that Jesus had an open door to speak, He is going to warn them about the future

In Death

Without Jesus in our life, we are spiritually dead:

Ephesians 2:1

“And **you were dead** in your trespasses and sins”

Romans 6:23

“For **the wages of sin is death**, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”

A Visit to a Cemetery

Spirit death -> like physical death in a cemetery – “Come on up if you can save yourselves!”

Ezekiel 37:1-3

“The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and **set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones**. He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, they were very dry. He said to me, “**Son of man, can these bones live?**” And I answered, “O Lord GOD, only You know.”

It is a picture of a dead and dry Israel, with no spiritual life within it.

A person can be like that – spiritually dead.

A nation can be like that – spiritually dead.

Can a church be like that – spiritually dead?

Revelation 3:1-2 (Church at Sardis)

“To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: I know your deeds, **that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead**. Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.”

Though we breathe, we are incapable of saving ourselves being dead without Jesus in our lives.

If we truly believe in Him, though, John says we have eternal life:

True Belief = Eternal Life

John 5:24

“**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.**”

If you are a believer, eternal life is something you have now...which will stay with you forever!

When the Holy Spirit comes to live inside, divinity is with you, and divinity can never die.

“does not come into judgment” – a person with eternal life will not fail the judgment test

“Judgment” (condemnation in the KJV) -> **Greek word *Kree-sis*** -> where we get the English word “crisis”

“a separating, power of distinguishing, decision, choice, election, judgment”

Some people have a “**crisis of faith**” -> doubting whether what they believe is really true

I've seen many near the end of their life and experience the faith crisis -> "Am I really saved?"

Many will face crisis at the end when judgment time comes...

Avoiding Crisis

A person sure in his or her beliefs will not have a crisis of faith

Jesus says that the person with eternal life will not fail at the time of judgment

Romans 8:1-3

"Therefore, **there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: **sending His own Son** in the likeness of sinful flesh and **as an offering for sin**"

No damning sentence can be handed down against you if you are in Christ Jesus

In his letter to the churches, John explained it this way:

1 John 5:11-13

"**God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.** He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **so that you may know that you have eternal life.**"

Some are dead men walking...

But some...have transitioned from death into life

From Death to Life

"has passed out of death into life" -> John likes this phrase

Our condition of spiritual death has become spiritual life in Jesus -> but how do you know for sure?

1 John 3:13-16

"Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you. **We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren.** He who does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. **We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.**"

Love for the brothers and sisters in Christ is how we know we have passed out of death and into life

We will act differently than the world

The world is selfish and self-serving...

The true church is loving and self-giving...

Jesus also said that this character **would identify us as His children:**

John 13:34-35

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."**

John 5:25

“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.”

“an hour is coming and now is” -> many in the future will hear -> some have already heard His voice

“when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God”

The spiritually dead will hear the voice of life and live -> the dry bones will have the breath of God breathed in

How many of us have heard His voice? -> How many of you are waiting for someone you love to hear?

“those who hear, will live” -> they will gain eternal life -> **forever with Jesus, never to perish:**

John 10:27-28

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.”

The promise of Jeremiah is fulfilled in Israel:

Jeremiah 31:33

“This is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, **“I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”**

...and in the Gentiles, too:

John 10:16

“I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd.”

The Son of Man

John 5:26-27

“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.”**

Jesus administers Salvation

The Father brought life and Jesus is the One that now brings life:

John 1:4

“In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.”

Jesus was delegated the right to execute judgment

Matthew 28:18

“Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, **“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”**

There will not be an essay question **to get into Heaven**

It's not a multiple-choice test...

There is only One Question: **Do you have an intimate, personal relationship with the Son?**

Not a professional relationship! -> A personal one -> Are you ready to pass the judgment test?

Judgment is coming

Two Resurrections

John 5:28-29

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

"an hour is coming" -> it is in our future – it is **The Coming Judgment**

"all who are in the tombs will hear His voice and will come forth"

There is no annihilationism, the physically dead will answer for their life's deeds

The guy undergoing tests on his brain at the hospital in JAX -> "It might be worse"

"who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment"

Matthew 25:31-46

"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. "All the nations will be gathered before Him; and **He will separate them from one another**, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

"Then the King will say to those on His right, '**Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.** For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' "Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

40"Then the King will answer and say to them, '**Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.**'

"Then He will also say to those on His left, **Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;** for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.' "Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' "Then He will answer them, '**Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.**' "**These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.**"

What are the good deeds? -> love for the brothers and sisters: **displayed by feeding, clothing, visiting**

What are the bad deeds? -> not showing love for the brothers and sisters

This is not an “earn your salvation” argument

These “deeds” or “works” reflect a life changed by Jesus

Ephesians 2:8-10

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. **For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.**”

Judgment is coming...

Should we be fearful in view of the coming judgment?

Not if you are truly a believer in Jesus -> you should be confident -> **Christian hope in Romans 5:1-5**

But if you are deceived into thinking you're OK as you are -> **this is part of the devil's plan**

Matthew 7:21-23

“**Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.** "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'”

Many with claim to have a personal relationship with Jesus and say “Lord, Lord”

Many will give their church resume to Jesus:

- > didn't I speak the words of God?
- > didn't I cast out demons and bind the devil?
- > didn't I do great miracles?

How many people do you know who are just dancing with Jesus but not truly committed to Him?

Jesus's judgment is a just one:

John 5:30

"I can **do nothing on My own initiative**. As I hear, I judge; and **My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.**"

He knows your heart... He knows what in your mind... He knows your true spiritual condition... You can't hide...

Communion Prayer

Benediction