

THE DEAD SHALL HEAR HIS VOICE

jkroberts_us@yahoo.com
www.pacolethillsbaptist.org

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John 5:19-29

1. In this dispensation there are two types of people in the world:
 - a. Those who have heard the voice of Jesus, the Son of God.
 - b. Those who have not heard the voice of Jesus, the Son of God.
2. At some point every human being will hear His voice; for some it will mean life eternal, and for others it will mean an eternity separated from God in what the Bible calls the Lake of Fire.
3. There are many people in the world who accept intellectually the basic truths of the Gospel, but those facts have made no difference in their lives.
4. They may even have a religious or outwardly Christian component to their lives, but they are still dead in their trespasses and sins. Ephesians 2:1
5. The Apostle Paul summarized some foundational truths in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for (because of) our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.
6. Not only was He raised, He also ascended back to the Father at which point He was invested with all power and all authority. Eph 1:15-23

For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.
7. Notice two important truths mentioned here.
 - a. God has put all things in subjection under His feet. Hebrews 2:5-8

For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking. 6 But one has testified somewhere, saying, "WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU REMEMBER HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM? 7 "YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; 8 YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET." For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. **But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.**

NOTE: Are you under His authority?

b. God gave Him as head over all things to the church. Colossians 1:15-20

He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. 18 **He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.** 19 For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

NOTE: Jesus Christ is the head of the body, the church, and He is to have first place in everything that has to do with the church and all of its members.

8. The passage before us has to do with how Jesus responded to the Jews' response related to His healing of an infirmed man on the Sabbath.

9. In their mind Jesus had committed two sins.

a. He had healed a man on the Sabbath.

b. He had commanded the man to carry his pallet on the Sabbath.

10. Jesus elevated the conflict when He declared, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working."

NOTE: To paraphrase Jesus was saying, "What you see Me doing is what my Father wants done."

11. His response angered the Jews even more because they realized that Jesus was claiming equality with God. 18

12. Jesus then added more fuel to the fire by declaring:

a. His omniscience—His ability to see what the Father was doing.

b. His omnipotence—His ability to do what the Father was doing.

c. His supreme authority—His ability to bestow life and pass judgment.

d. His right to equal honor (reverence) with the Father.

13. Two important questions still need to be answered:

a. How and to whom does the Son give life?

b. How and who will the Son judge?

I. How and to whom does the Son give life? 24-25

A. Jesus stated that he who hears His word, and believes Him who sent Him:

1. Has eternal life.

2. Does not come into judgment.

3. Has passed out of death into life.

B. He also declared that a new dispensation had arrived by saying, "An hour is coming and now is,"

1. When the (spiritually) dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God.

2. When those who hear (and respond appropriately) will live. Ephesians 2:1, 4-10

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins...4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one

may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

3. Only Jesus can bestow eternal life, and He bestows it on those hear the Gospel, repent of their sins, and embrace Him as Savior and Lord.

II. How and who will the Son judge? 26-29

A. For an hour is coming (future) when all who are in the tombs (physically dead) shall hear Jesus' voice.

B. The Bible clearly teaches that there is an intermediate state when both saved and lost people are absent from their bodies.

1. Paul wrote the following about those who are the true followers of Jesus Christ, "We are of good courage, I say, and prefer to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

2. The wicked dead are currently in Hades awaiting the voice of Jesus that will summon them for judgment. Luke 16:19-31

C. One day:

1. The bodies of those who did the good (by hearing and responding to the Gospel) will hear the voice of the Son of Man and shall come forth to a resurrection of life. See 1 Corinthians 15:35-54, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

2. The bodies of those who did the evil (rejected and did not respond to the Gospel) will hear the voice of the Son of Man and shall come forth to a resurrection of judgment. Revelation 20:11-15

APPLICATION

1. We know that Jesus Christ died, and was buried, and rose again from the dead.

2. We also know that everyone who is currently alive will one day die and be separated from their physical body.

3. Those who belong to the Lord will enter into Heaven to await the resurrection of their bodies; referred to as a resurrection of life.

NOTE: Jesus taught in Luke 16 that even in this intermediate state we will be identifiable with some sort of form or body.

4. Those who died in their sins will enter into Hades to await the resurrection of their bodies; referred to as a resurrection of judgment.

5. Which resurrection we will be a part of is determined by our relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ.