

Hear and Live!

John 5:25-29

Thought for the Day: Those who hear the voice of Jesus today through the Gospel and respond in faith receive His gift of eternal life; those who respond in unbelief, will hear His voice at the resurrection of the dead and receive His judgment resulting in eternal death.

In John 5:19-29, Jesus sets forth His authority and justification for His actions which are contrary to the Jewish interpretations of God's laws. He tells them that He is going to perform even greater works than those they have already seen: 1) He's going to raise the dead; and 2) He's going to be the Judge of all mankind. Clearly, Jesus is claiming equality with God!

In verses 25-26, Jesus addresses the issue of giving spiritual life to those who are spiritually dead. This is something that Jesus is doing in the present.

In verses 27-29, Jesus addresses the issue of raising and judging those who are physically dead. This is something that Jesus is going to do in the future.

25 Truly, truly, I say to 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.

- The "hour that is coming" in verse 25 is different from the "hour that is coming" in verse 28. They are not the same hour!
 - The hour in vs. 25 is "now here"; the hour in vs. 28 is still coming.
 - The hour in vs. 25 is present; the hour in vs. 28 is yet future.
- What is happening in the present "hour"? The dead hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear live.
 - Who are these dead people? Those who are dead in their trespasses and sins; they are physically alive but spiritually dead. (Ephesians 2:1-3)
 - When do these dead people hear the voice of the Son of God? When they hear the Gospel.
- Those who hear and believe the Gospel live; they receive God's gift of eternal life; they pass over from death to life. (John 5:24; 3:16)
- Eternal life is a present possession; even though we may experience physical death, nevertheless, we will live forever with God in heaven.

26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

- Jesus always was and always will be God of very God!
 - He has always had life dwelling in Himself. That life never had a beginning; it never had a source apart from Himself. (John 1:1-4)
 - As God, as the Creator of all things, Jesus is the Source of all life.
- But in His humanity, God the Father "granted the Son also to have life in himself."
 - He has the power and authority to give that life to all who believe in Him for salvation.
 - "This again is a distinct statement as to the deity of Christ and as to His equality with the Father. It cannot be said of any man that he has life in himself. Life was given to each one of us, but it was never given to the Father or to the Lord Jesus. From all

eternity, They have had life dwelling in Them. That life never had a beginning. It never had a source apart from Them." (*MacDonald, p. 1451*)

- "Those who deny the deity of Christ twist Jesus' statement that the Father gave life to the Son into an admission of His own creatureliness and inferiority to the Father. Such is not the case, however. John had already stated in the prologue to his gospel that the Son possessed life in Himself from all eternity (1:4). Again, it must be affirmed that when He became a man, our Lord voluntarily gave up the independent use of His divine attributes (Philippians 2:6-7; cf. John 5:19,30; 8:28). But the Father granted Him the authority to give life (both physical and spiritual) even during the self-limiting condescension of His earthly ministry." (*The MacArthur New Testament Commentary*)

27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

- "Son of God" and "Son of man" both mean the same thing: Jesus Christ is God in human flesh. "Son of God" emphasizes His deity; "Son of man" emphasizes His humanity.
- As the Son of man, Jesus is perfectly qualified to serve as the Judge of all humanity because He is both fully God and fully man.
- "As with the authority to give life, the Father also gave the incarnate and submissive Son the authority to execute judgment. Christ received that authority because He is the Son of Man. As God in human flesh, a man "who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15), Jesus is uniquely qualified to be mankind's judge... Since He is the God-man who entered fully into human life, experience, and temptation (Hebrews 2:14-18; 4:14-16), Jesus can be the ultimate judge of all mankind." (*The MacArthur New Testament Commentary*)

28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

- "All the dead will one day be raised. Some will be raised to life, and others to condemnation. What a solemn truth it is that every person who has ever lived or will ever live falls into one of these two classes!" (*MacDonald, p. 1452*)
- "Verse 29 does *not* teach that people who have done good will be saved because of their good deeds, and those who have done evil will be condemned because of their wicked lives. A person is not saved by doing good, but he does good because he has been saved. Good works are not the root of salvation but rather the fruit. They are not the cause, but the effect. The expression *those who have done evil* describes those who have never put their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus, and consequently whose lives have been evil in the sight of God. These will be raised to stand before God and to be sentenced to eternal doom." (*MacDonald, p. 1452*)
- Jesus will act as Judge over believers at the Bema Seat of Christ to evaluate and reward their works. (2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15).
- Jesus will act as Judge over unbelievers at the Great White Throne Judgment resulting in eternity in the Lake of Fire. (Revelation 20:11-15)
- Revelation 3:20 – "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me." (Speaks of eternal fellowship with God in heaven.) Hear and live!