

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **John 5:24-29**.
- B. This weekend, specifically tomorrow and Wednesday, our nation pauses to remember those who have gone on before us (it is Memorial Day). It is said that people are only remembered for about 3 generations, and then forgotten by their families. Sad, but too many times true.
- C. The old saying is true; "If you are born once you will die twice, but if you are born twice you will only die once."
- D. All shall be physically resurrected. Only a few will choose to be spiritually resurrected.

I. THE FIRST RESURRECTION.

- A. Those who are spiritually dead need the "first resurrection."
- B. Those in sin are thought of as being dead:
 - 1. The prodigal son was "dead" according to the father (Lk. 15:32).
'But we had to be merry and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.'
 - 2. The widow (or anyone) who gives themselves to wanton pleasure (1Tim. 5:6).
But she who gives herself to wanton pleasure is dead even while she lives.
 - 3. Paul says we were dead in our trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1-2).
And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.
- C. Those who are dead do not need revival, they need a resurrection! Those who are only born once, must die twice....!
- D. Before a resurrection can take place there must not only be a death but a burial too (Rom. 6:3-4; 2Cor. 5:17)!
(Rom 6:3-4) Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. (2Cor 5:17) Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
- F. Christians are raised to a new life because of their faith in the operation of God (Col. 2:12).
having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.
- G. Those who have taken part in the first resurrection, the second death has no power (Rev. 20:6). Be born twice, only die once!
Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

II. THE SECOND RESURRECTION.

- A. See again **John 5:24-29**.
- B. Jesus begins with the words, "Do not marvel." The following words may seem a bit unbelievable but they are to be believed.
- C. Four things about this resurrection:
 - 1. **The hour is coming**--a fixed time known only to God (Jn. 5:25; Mt. 24:36).
*(Jn 5:25) "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear shall live."
(Mt 24:36) "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone."*
 - 2. **All in the graves will be raised** (Jn. 5:28), that is all who are dead will come forth.
"Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice,"

3. They shall be raised **by the sound of His voice** (Jn. 5:24, 28).
 “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. **28** “Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice,”
4. They shall be raised **in judgment**:
 and shall come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment.
 - a. Some to a resurrection of life based on good deeds (Jn. 5:29b).
 “...those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life...”
 - b. Some to a resurrection of death based on bad deeds (Jn. 5:29c).
 “...those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment.”
- D. This is Jesus way of speaking of the final day; His return in the clouds, the resurrection of the dead; and the final judgment of all souls.
- E. There should be no (or little) fear in the second resurrection if we have participated in the first!

III. JESUS IS THE JUDGE.

- A. Jesus mentions Himself as judge as well as the voice one must hear to be saved believing in God (Jn. 5:24, 27).
 “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... **27** and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is *the* Son of Man.”
- B. God has appointed Jesus as the judge of the world (Ac. 17:31; Rom. 2:16; 2Tim. 4:1).
 (Ac 17:31) “...because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”
 (Rom 2:16) ...on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.
 (2Tim 4:1) I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:...
- C. To reject Jesus and His word is to stand condemned on the judgment day (Jn. 12:48).
 “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.”
- D. But to be faithful is to receive great reward from Jesus the eternal judge (2Tim. 4:8).
 ...in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The conclusion of this lesson and text (Jn. 5:24-29) is simple. Are you going to die once or twice? How will you be resurrected on the final day?
- B. We are to hear X's voice and go through the first resurrection (baptism).
- C. Then the second resurrection is eternal life to the Xian, and eternal death to the non-Xian.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.