

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. Scripture text: **John 5:25-29.**

“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. [26] “For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; [27] 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 shall hear His voice, [29] 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.

B. Life on this planet will not go on forever. We must be ready for the second coming of Jesus. We must know what the Scriptures teach concerning this event and the end of the universe.

C. The second coming of X is mentioned over 300 times in the NT (many more times than baptism or the LS). No one knows the exact time of X's coming except God alone (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.

D. This morning, I will be reading and giving a brief comment on five passages that explain what will happen when Jesus comes again and the end of the world is at hand.

II. **JOHN 5:25-29.**

A. John 5:25-29 is our scripture reading and tells us the following about the great and final day.

B. This passage teaches the following about the end of the world:

1. Death seals one's eternal fate; the soul that will be raised on the final day is one that has been judged by the Son.
2. The decision as to the soul's abode is made at death (Heb. 9:27).
3. This decision belongs to Jesus, He is Judge.
4. All will be raised, both righteous and wicked, all will hear the voice of Jesus.

III. **1THESSALONIANS 4:13-17.**

A. The text (NASB):

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. [14] For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. [15] For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. [16] For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. [17] Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.

B. This is a text read at many funerals to give comfort to those who grieve at the loss of a loved one.

C. This passage teaches the following about the end of the world:

1. Christ will descend with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God.
2. We need not grieve about those who have physically died for Jesus is coming for them first.
3. Those who are physically dead but are in X, will rise first to meet Jesus in the air.
4. Those who remain and are faithful will also be caught up in the clouds with Jesus.

D. But this is not all!

IV. **1CORINTHIANS 15:50-53.**

A. The text (NASB):

Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. [51] Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, [52] in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. [53] For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

B. This passage is speaking of the very same occurrence as is 1Th. 4.

- C. We see the following, according to Paul:
 1. Flesh and blood cannot enter into heaven; even Jesus in His ascension had to be changed so that He could sit at the right hand of the Father.
 2. At the sound of the last trumpet the dead shall be raised imperishable (it makes no difference as to whether the body was buried in land, at sea, cremated or eaten by animals).
 3. We shall also be changed; those alive at the coming before they go to meet Jesus in the air will be changed into imperishable, immortal beings.
 4. Death, the final enemy, is swallowed up in victory by X.

V. **1CORINTHIANS 15:23-26,58.**

- A. The text (NASB):
But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, [24] then comes the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. [25] For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. [26] The last enemy that will be abolished is death.... [58] Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.
- B. These verses show the great victory the final day is for the church.
- C. It doesn't answer all the questions about the end, but the following we do know:
 1. The church/kingdom is delivered up to God (Eph. 5:27).
that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.
 2. The final enemy, death, is destroyed.
 3. We shall be raised or changed into a spiritual body (whether we recognize each other is not really important as being in heaven).
 4. Paul's final instruction is what we need to be doing while we wait (see 1Cor. 15:58).

VI. **REVELATION 20:11-15.**

- A. The text (NASB):
And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. [12] And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. [13] And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. [14] And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. [15] And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
- B. The great judgment of all souls follows the return of Christ. This is a day of sentencing for those who have already physically died and a day of decision and sentencing for those who were alive at the coming of X.
- C. The passage tells us the following about the judgment:
 1. Judgment immediately follows the second coming of X, no second chances.
 2. The faithful are recorded in heaven and the deeds of all are written down in "books" to be compared with the Bible.
 3. This passage is in harmony with the parables Jesus taught about judgment to follow His return (see Mt. 24:50,51; 25:10-12; 25:30; 25:21-34,46).
 4. Hades, the place of the dead, is destroyed and everyone will be in the eternal heaven or the eternal hell.

VII. **CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. We have looked at 5 passages that tell us what will happen on the great and final day.
- B. Are you ready for that day?
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.