

The Gospel of John

Chapter 5:24-30

March 9, 1997

- **The Gospel of John Outline:**

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- Chapter 1 Our Lord is the Word, the Light and the Life
- Chapter 2 The Lord of the Wedding Feast; Zeal for the purity of the temple
- Chapter 3 Spiritual Birth, Belief and Salvation vs. Unbelief and Condemnation
- Chapter 4 The Ministry in Samaria, The Harvest, The Faith of the Nobleman
- Chapter 5 Paralytic man healed on the Sabbath, Unity of The Father and Son

- **Review and Introduction**

These verses are a continuation of the oration given by our Lord to the Jews who had been angered to the point of killing Him. This was not just general instruction to the masses but was a rebuke of them for their hard hearts.

- **Exposition**

- **John 5:24-30**

- - *²⁴ "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."*

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- It is important to note that we pass from death to life by hearing *and* believing. It is not enough to simply hear our gospel and not believe for without belief, you really haven't *heard* the message. Death to life occurs by hearing and believing the word of truth which is the gospel. Col. 1:5, Eph 1:13, James 1:16-18
- There are two different death-to-life scenarios in these verses. In this verse we have those who are spiritually dead and they pass into spiritual life once they hear and believe. The second scenario comes later and involves those coming up out of the graves.
- For those who hear and believe they have passed from death to life. The passage is accomplished and secured at the point of belief not some later date. The fruit of the passage from death-to-life is seen when we stand before our Lord and escape judgement, but that situation is secured so surely that it can be said that we have *already* passed.

- - *²⁵ "Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live."*

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- The particular hour Jesus was referring to included the hour He spoke these words. This is not referring to some eschatological hour yet to come.
- Notice that there were those who heard the very words of Christ and they believed and they passed from death to life. This means that they did so prior to the death burial and resurrection of Christ. Those who lived under the law in the Old Testament were saved by grace through faith in Christ. This has always been the means by which we are saved. Although the saints of old looked forward to the coming of Christ, they had the Gospel declared to them and if they believed by faith, they too passed from death to life.

- - *²⁶ "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,"²⁷ "and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man."*

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- These are two fundamental tenets of Christianity, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgement. Even though they are

central doctrines, the Church has in large part moved away from the faithful teaching of them. Our heavenly Father has the ability to give both physical and spiritual life; in the exact same way, our Lord has the same authority to give life. Therefore, it is appropriate to say that only in Christ can we find the source and meaning of our existence. Jesus is both the law-enforcer and the life-giver.

● ● ²⁸ *"Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹ "and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.*

- - Our Lord goes on to teach that not only will He grant the spiritually dead new spiritual life and thus a spiritual resurrection, the day is coming when graves themselves will be emptied of their contents and they will be resurrected.
 - Notice here that the resurrection occurs for all humans, the dead and the Elect. Clearly this would visually be a much greater thing to see than a spiritual resurrection but nonetheless significant. At this resurrection there will be a judgement based on our lives. There is no indication of any post physical death opportunities for repentance.
 - All of the descendants of Adam have done evil. There is none righteous—not even one. Yet those who are in Christ and have passed from death to life will at this physical resurrection be granted a resurrection unto eternal life not eternal condemnation.

● ● ³⁰ *"I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me. NKJV*

- - After the resurrection, there is a trial before this righteous judge. The foundation of His judgement is not His autonomous prerogative but is based on the will of the Father which is, by definition, righteousness.