

The Gospel of John

The Gospel of John

Lesson #52

The Journey

Jim Hoffman

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The Gospel of John

John 5:25 “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.”

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- For those who let the “hour” when God speaks to them go by unnoticed, please note there is no law that says one must notice and make a decision, for or against Christ.
- When one’s default position is lostness the decision to be saved or not requires no action on the part of the lost one.
- The decision to be born lost was not ours – it was Adam’s; we are merely inheritors of his lostness. (most hold that we would have sinned as Adam did if we were him)

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- Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—
- We are guilty because this guy, Adam, whom we've never even met, sinned? Yes because of the sin of another we are guilty.
- But we are offered righteousness in the same model as we are held accountable for the sin of another – one man, Jesus, whom we had never met did not sin.

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- There is a natural line of thinking that assumes God has to save those who fail to receive him because it is not their fault they were born lost in sin.
- The same line of thinking should take into account that as soon as every person can make decisions to sin or not sin – 100% of us choose to sin.
- Therefore, we are more than just sinners by birth - we are all then sinners by choice.

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Do not miss the graciousness of God who created mankind innocent and watched as Adam and Eve spat in his face choosing sin over him. Do not lose sight of the fact that God could have turned his back on all men and let everyone be born, live, die, and be sentenced to hell. Instead, he choose to provide a way out of condemnation for as many as would believe in his Son. He didn't have to save anyone – he didn't owe anything to anyone. The fact that he chose to save those who would believe is grace unspeakable!

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- And what is this about “the dead” hearing the voice of Jesus when he is speaking to the living?
- Ephesians 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.
- Before we come to Christ, we are spiritually dead and unable to do anything to save ourselves.

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Jesus did not come to make bad people good – he came to make dead people live!

Leonard Ravenhill

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- John 5:26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.
- **From Strong’s** - Life real and genuine, a life active and vigorous, devoted to God, blessed, in the portion even in this world of those who put their trust in Christ, but after our resurrection to be consummated by new attainments (among them a more perfect body), and to last for ever.

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- More attainments than forgiveness of sin? Yes, many more attainments are ours now and even more in eternity.
- The prosperity preachers come wanting their targets to trade their current penury for an empty promise of God's blessing for supporting their ministry.
- Please do not insult the offer of God for an abundant life by limiting your view of his offer to financial blessings in this life – how small-minded that would be!

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- John 5:27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.
- The "Son of Man" is also the sovereign of the universe AND human as well making him perfectly able to identify with those he will judge.
- Nothing escapes his eye, and nothing happens that he does not only know the event, but any mitigating factors that led to the event.

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1st John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

The Judge is also our Defense Attorney.

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Jesus, Judge of All

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

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• John 5:28 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.

• Back in verse #25 Jesus dealt with the spiritually dead, now he turns the conversation to the physically dead.

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• I will deal first with the seemingly contradictory language of verse 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”.

• Jesus is not contradicting the whole of scripture (no one is saved by their works) – he is affirming what he said in Matthew 7:16 where we read, “You will recognize them by their fruits”.

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- “all who are in the tombs will hear his voice” – all the dead will hear, but not all will hear at the same time.
- The dead and buried will come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.
- The wording here is difficult to understand apart from the whole of scripture – these are two separate events.

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- The wording is such that if you isolated just this verse you might be convinced there will be but one general resurrection of the saved and lost together.
- Daniel says something very similar when he speaks of those who sleep in the dust of the earth awakening.
- Some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

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Daniel 12:1 “At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. 2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

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- “Written in the book” – what book?
 - The Lamb’s Book of Life – Rev 21:27 (saints)
 - The Book of Life – Philippians 4:3 (saints)
 - Judged by what it is in “the books” – Rev 20:12
 - The Book of Truth – Daniel 10:21 (seems unrelated to the Book of Life and the Lamb’s Book of Life)

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- Exodus 32:32 “But now, if you will, forgive their sin— but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written.” 33 But the Lord said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book.”
- Psalm 69:28 Let them be blotted out of the book of the living; let them not be enrolled among the righteous.

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Life in Revelation 3:5

Word: [zwh](#)

Pronounce: *dzo-ay'*

Strong's Number: [G2222](#)

Orig: from 2198; life (literally or figuratively);--life(-time). Compare 5590. [G2198](#)

Use: TDNT-2:832,290 Noun Feminine

Heb Strong: [H1870](#) [H1935](#) [H2247](#) [H2416](#) [H2421](#) [H2451](#) [H2617](#) [H3117](#) [H3899](#) [H4997](#)

1) life
 1a) the state of one who is possessed of vitality or is animate
 1b) every living soul
 2) life

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- Blotted out of the Book?
- Rev 3:5 The one who overcomes will be clothed the same way, in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.
- 1st John 5:5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

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- Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.
- Rev 20:15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

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So, what about the “books”? As it turns out there is a “Book of the Living” which is what you would expect – the names of all the living souls at any one time. And there is a “Book of Life” which contains the names of all believers of all times. The “Lamb’s Book of Life” is the same as the “Book of Life”. This raises an important question – when is a believer’s name written in the Lamb’s Book of life? Answer – according to Revelation 13:8, before the foundation of the world.

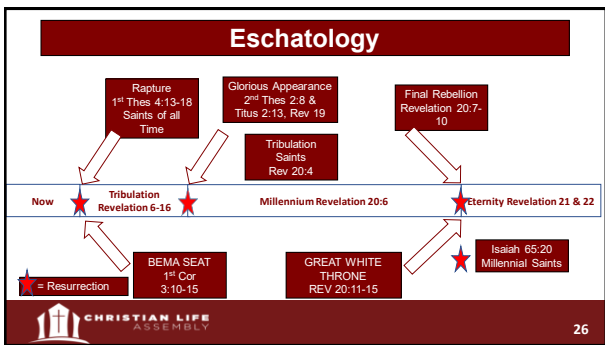
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Revelation 13:5 And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. 6 It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.

7 Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, 8 and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

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Questions?

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