



Daily Verse and Comment

John 5:24-29

(24) Truly, truly I say to you, the one who hears My word, and believes Him Who sent Me, has everlasting life and does not come into judgment; for he has passed from death into life. (25) Truly, truly I say to you, the 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 even as the Father has life in Himself, so also has He given to the Son to have life in Himself; (27) And has also given Him authority to execute judgment because He is the Son of man. (28) Do not wonder at this, for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves shall hear His voice (29) And shall come forth: those who have practiced good unto a resurrection of life, and those who have practiced evil unto a resurrection of judgment.

A Faithful Version

Hearing Christ's word and believing in [God](#) are not as simple as they appear; a single action or decision is not all it takes for these verses to apply. Even so, [Jesus](#) shows that the way is open now for some to avoid that eternal judgment of death and to pass from the state of spiritual death into spiritual life.

Passing from death into eternal life is a result of the relationship that God draws us into. A person who has been called by God, who responds by hearing Christ's word (in the sense of obedience), and begins to live a life of trust in God, is one who is now spiritually alive. If he remains in that state of spiritual life until the end, he will be in the [first resurrection](#) and given immortality.

“The hour is coming, *and now is*” means that from the time of His preaching forward, some of the spiritually dead would hear His voice, respond to Him, and begin living spiritually. In that case, the dead He is talking about are the spiritually dead of mankind.

But then the focus changes in verse 28 to the future: “The hour *is coming*.” A time will come when *all* who are in their graves will hear His voice and rise in a resurrection. “All who are in the graves” refers to those who have physically died. God, in His mercy, will resurrect each person at some point, “each one in his own order” ([I Corinthians 15:23](#)).

The fact that death is not the end is a major change from where things stood after Adam's [sin](#). Each person will have the opportunity to live life spiritually, in union with God, because He “is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” ([II Peter 3:9](#)). He will, then, give everyone a chance to repent, to come out of his or her spiritual death, and to experience a life of reconciliation with Him. That opportunity could happen in this age, or it could happen in the resurrection to physical life that takes place after the Millennium (see [Revelation 20:5](#)).

— David C. Grabbe

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