

I mentioned last week that within this discourse our Savior provides two categories of evidence in vindicating His claim—that He is His Father's eternally begotten Son—[1] His works (vv19-30), and [2] His witnesses (vv31-47)—with regards to His works, He provides two primary works that only God can do—the giving of life and execution of judgment...

Last week in considering verses 24-26 we examined the giving of life—which brings us this morning to verses 27-30 and the execution of judgment...

- I. The Identification of the Judge—v27
- II. The Particulars of the Judgment—vv28-30

I. The Identification of the Judge—v27

1. V27—"and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man"—the first I want to do is briefly point out the connection of v27 with v26...
2. The Father gives the Son to have life in Himself just as the Father does—this refers to an eternal begetting...
3. The Son of God has life in Himself just as the Father has life in Himself—both are equally and eternally self-existent...
4. But the Father not only gives life or begets the Son from everlasting—but also gives the Son authority to judge as the Son of Man...
5. Now—before I go before, it's important to keep in mind, from v22 we know Christ has authority to judge as the Son of God...
6. But—the authority given in v27 is a unique authority given to Christ as the GodMan, in reward to His sufferings...
7. Dan.7:13-14—"I was watching in the night visions, and behold, *One* like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom *the one* which shall not be destroyed..."
8. [1] WHEN was this authority given—it was given from everlasting in God's purposes and in time at His exaltation...
9. Acts 10:42—"And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead..."
10. John Gill—"He was from all eternity in the council and covenant of grace; appointed by God to have all power in heaven and in earth; and not only to judge and govern his church and people on earth, but to be the Judge of all men at the last day..."
11. Acts 17:30-31—"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead..."
12. Matt.28:18—"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth"—authority which includes exercising judgment...
13. [2] WHY was this authority given—simply—put He's given this authority in reward to His redemptive labors...
14. Phil.2:5-11—"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Ps.2:6-9)..."

15. Anthony Hoekema—"It is indeed most appropriate that Christ should be the judge in the final judgment. He is the one who became incarnate, died, and rose again for the salvation of his people. Those who believe on him are saved through him; hence it is most fitting that he should be their judge. Those who have rejected him, on the other hand, have sinned against him; hence it is appropriate that the one whom they have rejected should be their judge. The work of judging, moreover, will be Christ's final exaltation and highest triumph. While on earth he was condemned by earthly rulers; now he will sit in judgment over all earthly authorities. Christ will now carry out to its completion his saving work for his people..."
16. Thus—as Hoekema mentioned, historically, His second coming and judgment are the last aspects to His exaltation..
17. Thomas Boston—"He stood before a tribunal on earth, and was condemned as a malefactor: now he shall sit on his own tribunal, and judge the world. He once hung upon the cross, covered with shame; now he shall sit on a throne of glory..."

## II. The Particulars of the Judgment—vv28-30

### A. It's universal—v28

1. V28—"Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth..."
2. Here—I want to say two things about the universality of this judgement—it includes everybody, and every body...
3. [1] It includes just and unjust—"the hour is coming in which ALL who are in the graves will hear the voice His voice..."
4. Now—if you remember, this ALL is in contrast to v25—"the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live..."
5. That refers to a present and spiritual resurrection (regeneration)—which results from a limited effectual call...
6. But—in contrast to this—the call in v28 is a universal summons—where ALL who are in the grave will hear...
7. Thus—every person who has ever died—rich, poor, young, old, Jew, Gentile, Christian, Muslim, and atheist...
8. Every person from the beginning of time—from the very first person who died to the last—all shall be raised...
9. Dan.12:2-3—"And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt..."
10. Acts 24:15—"I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust..."
11. The Jews divided humanity into two groups—Jews and Gentiles—but in fact, God divides humanity into just and unjust...
12. [2] It includes body and soul—verse 29 twice mentions the resurrection—this resurrection is a bodily resurrection...
13. Thus—we learn there is a single resurrection, followed by a single judgment, that includes all men without exception...
14. Now—it's important to realize that on the day of judgment—every person will stand before Christ body and soul...
15. And—the bodies we stand in will be the very same bodies we either served Christ or sinned against Christ...
16. 2Cor.5:10—"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad..."
17. In other words—there is a sense in which our bodies are held accountable—for the things we've done in them...
18. For Christians, who have sought to serve God with their bodies—they will be glorified in body and in soul...

19. For non-Christians, who misused their bodies and used them as means to rebel against God—their bodies will be punished with their souls...
20. John Gill—"It seems quite necessary from the justice of God that not others, but the same bodies Christ has purchased, the Spirit has sanctified, and which have suffered for the sake of Christ, should be glorified; and that those, and not others, should be punished, that have sinned against God, blasphemed the name of Christ, and persecuted his saints..."
21. Thomas Boston—"Surely, as the bodies of the saints now bear a part in glorifying God, and some of them suffer in this cause, so they shall partake of the glory that is to be revealed. And these bodies of the wicked, which are laid in the dust, shall be raised again, that the same body which sinned may suffer..."
22. Now—although the resurrection of both the righteous and wicked happen together—there are important differences...
23. [a] The righteous are raised IN CHRIST—that the bodies of the righteous are raised for virtue of their union with Christ...
24. It is for this reason—the dead bodies of saints are described as "sleeping in Christ"—they're in union with Christ...
25. 1Thess.4:14—"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus..."
26. Those "who sleep in Jesus" are Christians who've died—their bodies are in the grace and the souls return with Christ...
27. But notice—why their bodies are resurrected—"because Jesus died and rose again"—that is, in virtue of His resurrection...
28. Now—this is in opposition to the wicked dead—who are raised by the POWER of Christ but not the VIRTUE of Christ...
29. [b] The righteous are raised LIKE CHRIST—that is—their bodies are raised in the image of Christ's glorious body...
30. They are placed in the grave mortal, weak, and dishonorable—they are raised immortal, powerful, and honorable...
31. Ps.17:15—"As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness..."
32. Because the bodies of believers are merely "sleeping in Jesus"—the resurrection is likened to a blessed morning...
33. Right now—the bodies of all the righteous are merely sleeping—waiting to hear that sweet and powerful voice...
34. Now—the Scriptures are silent on the nature of the bodies of the wicked—other than they will be the self-same bodies...
35. And—they will be raised durable enough to endure the eternal punishment their sins deserves in body and soul...

#### B. It's final—v29

1. By "final" I mean—the sentencing of this judgment results in two very different but final states—life and condemnation...
2. Now—before I go further, let me address an issue that may seem at odds with other Scriptures—that is—it seems this judgment is based on works...
3. V29—"those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation..."
4. Simply put—at the final judgement—works will be used as the outward expression of a gracious salvation...
5. Think of it like this—salvation is both legal and personal—legal in that it concerns forgiveness and justification...
6. Personal in that it concerns regeneration and salvation—both of these are equal elements of Christ's salvation...
7. Thus—wherever there is sanctification there of necessity has been justification—works verify our justification...

8. Eph.2:8-10—"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them (Matt.12:35-37)..."
9. [a] We are saved BY faith, v8—"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God..."
10. This salvation is both from sin's penalty and power—it includes both—we are saved from sin by faith in Christ...
11. [b] We are saved FOR works, v10—"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them..."
12. Thus—doing good goes not MERIT our salvation, it merely PROVES its reality—good works validate our profession...
13. For example—the presence of apples doesn't make a tree an apple tree—it merely shows it is an apple tree...
14. It's for this reason—that throughout Scripture, the final judgment concerns the behavior of those being judged...
15. Leon Morris—"Judgment, as always in Scripture, is on the basis of works...This does not mean that salvation is on the basis of good works, for this very Gospel makes it plain over and over again that men enter eternal life when they believe on Jesus Christ. But the lives they live form the test of the faith they profess..."
16. Matt.16:27—"For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works..."
17. Rev.20:11-15—"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire..."
18. Here our Savior describes two very different destinies or states—these are FINAL in that they never change...
19. [1] A resurrection of eternal life—"those who have good, to the resurrection of life"—that is—life that's eternal...
20. Now—here let me remind you of the connection between the two resurrections that every Christian experiences...
21. The FIRST resurrection is spiritual and takes place at in their regeneration and conversion—this results in life...
22. The SECOND resurrection is physical and this take at the final day—this TOO results in life that is eternal...
23. Now—here's my point—these two are fundamentally the same—the life we have now and the life we will have then...
24. Do you remember fundamentally what spiritual life entails—it entails being restored to God—knowing God...
25. This is what spiritual life is—to know God—to be reconciled to God—to have personal fellowship with God...
26. Thus—what does it mean to be raised to life—but to have fellowship with God in body and soul—forever...
27. Gen.3:22-24—"Then the LORD God said, Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever – therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life..."
28. Rev.2:7—"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God..."

29. [2] A resurrection of condemnation—"those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation"—that is—eternal death...
30. If the righteous are raised to "eternal life" than the wicked are raised to "eternal death"—or to eternal condemnation...
31. This simply means—the wicked will for eternity remain under the just wrath of God which is due to their sins...
32. A.W. Pink—"Nothing awaits them but impartial judgment, the formal and public pronouncement of their sentence of doom, and after that nothing, but an eternity of torment spent in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone. As they had sinned in physical bodies so shall they suffer in physical bodies..."
33. Historically, this condemnation has been described in two ways—[a] the pain of loss, and [c] pain of sense...

#### C. It's righteous—v30

1. V30—"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..."
2. Before examining the particulars of this verse—let me simply state—it provides the justification for the Son serving as Judge...
3. His judgment is righteous because of who He is—or put another way—because He is God's Son He judges righteously...
4. Now—if you remember, our Savior began this discourse with the same language, v19—"the Son can do nothing of Himself..."
5. I then mentioned, in examining that verse, that far from lessening His divinity, the phrase underscores His absolute equality and unity with the Father...
6. Because the Father and Son are of the same essence—the Son can do nothing independent or contrary to His Father...
7. The works that the Son does—He acts OF or FROM the Father—He does what He sees the Father do and say...
8. This is simply a beautiful way of underscoring both equality and submission—the Son acts OF or FROM the Father...
9. V30—"and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me..."
10. That is—because He's the Father's Son, and does only that which the Father wills—His judgment is righteous...
11. Because He is perfectly and eternally righteous in and of Himself—He possesses perfect ability to judge righteously...

#### III. Lessons

1. [1] Jesus Christ is God's co-equal and eternal Son—that is—He is fully and eternally God, equal with the Father...
2. We mustn't forget that this is the primary point of these verses—our Savior is vindicating His claim made in v17...
3. Who possesses the power to raise the dead with His own word—to speak life into dead and decayed bodies...
4. Who possesses the wisdom to recreate these bodies, bringing together every molecule of decomposed matter...
5. Who possesses the right to stand all humanity before Him, and sentence saints and sinners to their eternal states...
6. No person has such power, wisdom, or sovereignty except for Jesus Christ—the Son of God and Son of Man...
7. [2] Every evil deed will one day be avenged—every evil deed is ultimately against God who alone will avenge...

8. Every evil word, act, and thought—will one day be recompensed—every evil deed will be repaid—"the wages of sin is death..."
9. We live in a world where evil people seem unfazed by their actions—they live in open defiance to God's law...
10. Isa.5:20—"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness..."
11. The people of God are openly mocked and ridiculed—and in many parts of the world they are openly persecuted...
12. Yet—there is coming a time when every evil person, will stand before Christ, in body and soul, to give an account...
13. This is one reason why the judgement will be public—because Christ will openly vindicate His name and people...
14. Ps.73:17—"Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I understood their end. Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction..."
15. My friends—we are reminded this morning of the sober and sad end of evil doers—a resurrection of damnation...
16. Ps.73:11—"And they say, How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?"—they think their actions escapes God's notice...
17. Nothing happens without God knowing about it—He is presently in the heavens watching everything on earth...
18. Prov.15:3—"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good"—He sees everything...
19. [3] Every good deed will one day be rewarded—He not only sees every evil deed but also every good deed...
20. Heb.6:10—"For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister..."
21. My friends—Christians in no way have their best life now—without any doubt—the best part awaits them...