

“Jesus Gives Life: Testimony, Evidence and Opposition” | Dr. Eric Bargerhuff | 03.06.2022
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“Jesus Gives Life: Testimony, Evidence and Opposition”
John 5:16-47 (CSB)

Questions for Reflection:

1. There are unbelievers today that say that Jesus never claimed to be God. How does this passage reject that notion?
2. According to Jesus in this section, why do you think unbelievers reject the truth about Jesus' identity?
3. Which is the more powerful force in your life: to want what you want or to want what God wants? How can you make sure that you are pursuing God's will instead of your own?

Within the passage, Jesus talks about the “already/not yet” reality of a believer's resurrection to life. Notice that a believer will experience **two kinds of resurrection** – the first one comes at the moment of faith (a spiritual resurrection of being “born again” – see John 3:3), and then a physical resurrection that happens at the Second Coming of Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 1 Cor. 15:50-57) where we will then be rewarded for the good works in our life that our faith produced (2 Cor. 5:10, 1 Cor. 3:12-14). The good news for us is that our sins have already been judged at the cross. We will have to give an account of our lives, but we will only experience rewards for our faithfulness and service to God at our resurrection.

Unbelievers, on the other hand, will only experience one resurrection as they will always experience spiritual death but will be physically raised to life at the end of the millennium for a final judgment of their works before being cast off forever in the Lake of Fire (the final hell – see Rev. 20:11-15)

Note then, the physical resurrection of believers and unbelievers is guaranteed, but at different times and with significant differences in results.

4. How does your life provide evidence that Jesus is God? How has he changed you? What kind of fruit is your faith producing? (read James 2:14-18 and note that later James teaches that Abraham's works didn't save him, but rather vindicated and proved the fact that he had saving faith).