

JESUS IS LIFE

IN HIM WAS LIFE,
AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN.
(JOHN 1:4 ESV)



JESUS SAID TO HER, "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE. WHOEVER
BELIEVES IN ME, THOUGH HE DIE, YET SHALL HE LIVE, AND EVERYONE WHO LIVES
AND BELIEVES IN ME SHALL NEVER DIE. DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?"

(JOHN 11:25-26 ESV)

1. Jesus is the resurrection: It will one day be the voice of Jesus that brings the dead out of their graves to a resurrection of life or judgment.

- (John 5:25–29 ESV) 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.** 26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. 27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. 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.**

A. Jesus promises a wonderful resurrection for all who believe in him.

- (John 6:40 ESV) For this is the will of my Father, **that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.**

B. In a moment our mortal bodies will become immortal.

- (1 Corinthians 15:51–53 NLT) But let me reveal to you **a wonderful secret.** We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! **52 It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye,** when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, **those who have died will be raised to live forever.** And we who are living will also be transformed. **53 For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.**

2. Jesus is the life: The person who believes in Jesus has eternal life in Jesus and will not face judgment.

- (John 3:16 ESV) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, **that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**

3. Martha and Mary lived life in Jesus, 11:17-24.

- (John 11:17–24 ESV) Now when Jesus came, **he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.** 18 Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. 20 So when Martha heard that

Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house.

21 Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 **But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.**” 23 Jesus said to her, “**Your brother will rise again.**” 24 Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”

As we observe Martha’s dialogue with Jesus as she met him, it is important that we note how carefully Jesus chooses his words in speaking to her. He speaks to Martha in a way that calls her to think beyond the temporal reality in which she lives that she might see the glory of God.

A. Martha expresses her faith in Jesus and possibly her hope that he will yet raise Lazarus from the dead.

- i. She believed that if Jesus had been there, he would have healed Lazarus.
- ii. It seems that she also held out a hint of hope that “even now” Jesus would raise him up.

B. This seems to be supported by the words Jesus spoke when the messenger reported Lazarus’ illness to him.

- (John 11:3–4 ESV) So the sisters sent to him, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” 4 But when Jesus heard it he said, “**This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God,** so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

 - i. The messenger would undoubtedly have reported these words to Martha and Mary.
 - ii. At the very least these words signify something very special is happening.

C. Mary affirms her faith in the resurrection of the dead on the last day.

4. The person who has life in Jesus lives the new life that Jesus gave him, 11:25-27.

- (John 11:25–27 ESV) Jesus said to her, “**I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me,** though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives **and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?**” 27 She said to him, “Yes, Lord; **I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God,** who is coming into the world.”
- (John 17:3 ESV) And **this is eternal life,** that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

A. Jesus states that the person who truly believes in him will live even if he dies, and shall never die—referring to the second death which involves judgment.

- (Revelation 2:11 ESV) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.**
- (Revelation 20:6 ESV) Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! **Over such the second death has no power,** but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.
- (Revelation 20:14–15 ESV) Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. **This is the second death, the lake of fire.** 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
- (Revelation 21:8 ESV) But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in **the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.**

B. The person who believes in Jesus and lives in the light of this promise lives with an abounding, undaunted assurance that he will live and never die and even when he dies he shall still live.

C. So each of us should ask ourselves this question — Do we believe this?

5. This new, different life is based on the person and work of Jesus Christ.

A. **The Person:** We speak of the person of Christ because we are saved by believing in Jesus who is the resurrection and the life—the way, the truth and the life.

- (John 14:6 ESV) Jesus said to him, “**I am the way,** and **the truth,** and **the life.** No one comes to the Father except through me.”

B. **The Work:** We speak of the work of Christ because he saves us based on the gospel—his finished work on the cross.

- (1 Corinthians 15:3–4 ESV) For I **delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,** 4 **that** he was buried, **that** he was raised on the

third day **in accordance with the Scriptures.**

C. When we believe in Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, we have life in his name because we trust the work he has done on our behalf on the cross.

- (Acts 16:29–32 ESV) And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. 30 Then he brought them out and said, “**Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**” 31 And they said, “**Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved,** you and your household.” 32 **And they spoke the word of the Lord to him** and to all who were in his house.

They believed in the Lord (the Person) and the work (the word of the Lord the gospel) when Paul and Silas spoke it to them.

- (Colossians 1:5b ESV) ... Of this you have heard before in **the word of the truth, the gospel.**

D. This is a different life as our mode of existence has shifted from death/darkness to life/light.

- (Colossians 1:13–14 ESV) He has **delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,** 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- (1 Peter 2:9b ESV) ... that you may proclaim the excellencies of him **who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**

E. Jesus is our life for those who truly believe.

- (John 1:4 ESV) **In him was life,** and the life was the light of men.
- (Colossians 3:4 ESV) **When Christ who is your life appears,** then you also will appear with him in glory.

F. Jesus is the resurrection and the life and whoever believes in him has complete victory over all fears and power of death.

G. Martha demonstrated her saving faith in her confession — “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

- (John 20:31 ESV) ... but these are written **so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,** and that by believing you may have life in his name.

CONCLUSION: It is absolutely essential that we, the Church, understand the close connection between our obedience to the most important command and our ability to stay true to Jesus Christ and the gospel.

Doesn't it make sense biblically ... that the command that God tells us is the greatest, most important command to obey would be a primary focus of the devil to have us not obey?

And wouldn't our obedience to this most important command be a powerful counter-offensive against the attacks on the gospel?

- I. We, the Church, need to fully commit to obey God and love Jesus Christ with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind and with all our strength.
 - (Mark 12:28–30 ESV) And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” 29 Jesus answered, “The most important is, Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”
- II. We, the Church, need to repent for abandoning our “all our heart” love for our Lord.
 - (Revelation 2:4–5 ESV) But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.
- III. We, the Church, need to understand the personal nature of our salvation and keep watch over our love relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - A. Our salvation is Person-oriented, so as with Eve, the devil's primary scheme is to undermine our love for this Person.
 - (2 Corinthians 11:2–3 ESV) For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. 3 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your

thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

- B. The person who is not fully committed in his love for Jesus Christ **will be** deceived and **will** accept the devil's variances regarding Jesus, the Spirit and the gospel.
 - (2 Corinthians 11:4 ESV) For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.
- C. What would be one of the devil's variances you ask? Any gospel that calls for even a hint of works shows great contempt for Jesus and his finished work.
 - (Galatians 1:6–9 ESV) I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again: if anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.
- IV. We, the Church, can gauge our love for Jesus by our obedience to him.
 - (John 14:15 ESV) If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
 - (John 8:31–32 ESV) So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
- V. We, the Church, must believe that to honor God and his word and his gospel that it is crucial that our devotion to Christ not be diminished in even the slightest way.