

Jesus: Life-Giving Judge

John 5:21-30

Intro

Who is Your Jesus?

Examples from Thomas Jefferson and Phil Donahue

Context of This Passage

- Jesus heals an invalid at the pool in Bethesda
- Jesus' declaration of his equality with the Father (v. 17-18);
- Jesus' explanation and character of his equality with the Father (v. 19-20)
- These verses deal with the *function* of Jesus equality with the Father.

Jesus the Giver of Life

- Jesus gives life as a function of being one with God the Father.
- Jesus gives life to whom he will (v. 21) because he has life in himself (v. 26)
- Jesus gives life through his Word...his powerful word

The word of Christ is Christ himself (John 1:1)

'The possession of divine life begins with God's action rather than man's. In other words, life is not a reward for believing. It is the other way around. Life comes first; a person believes afterward. He believes because God has first placed his life within him. ... If the possession of eternal life were the result of believing, then the verse [v. 24] should have a future verb. Actually, the present tense of the verb is used to indicate that the one who believes does so because he already had the life of God within him.

James Montgomery Boice

- Jesus gives life as a present reality of what awaits us in eternity

Spiritual Christ-life is being proclaimed through Christ for those that are blind, lame, and paralyzed by sin so they can be healed eternally.

Jesus the Judge

- Jesus has been given authority to judge from the Father

Even with this distinction in roles, God the Father and God the Son still maintain their equality. We have heard from Jesus that all he does he receives from the Father. He does nothing on his own.

Son of Man

The Father grants all authority to the Son of Man as revelation and exaltation of the Son.

The Father has done this so all may honor the Son (v. 23).

The Father's love for the Son is being demonstrated.

- Jesus' present judgment

- Jesus' future judgment

How must we then live this Christ-life?

1. Live the Life of Christ!
 - In all humility
 - Love Jesus
 - Serve like Jesus
 - Know the Word

2. Live under the authority of Christ the Judge (King)
 - Exalt Jesus
 - Fear God
 - Obey Jesus
 - Submit to Christ's authority

Honor the Son of God...in honoring him we honor the Father who sent him.