

The Last Sunday after Epiphany ~ Sunday, February 11, 2024

“Heaven: The Way to Heaven”

John 5:1-29

Introduction

Whenever Jesus uses the phrase, “Truly, truly I say to you.” He’s calling us to sit up and take special _____ because what He’s about to say really _____.

Jesus consistently taught that the Sabbath is rightly observed not only by rest and worship, but by works of _____ and mercy. God is honored on the Sabbath when we do what we must do and when His heart of love and mercy is reflected in our _____ acts of love and mercy toward others.

Jesus’ response to the religious leaders’ criticism not only provides us with some of the clearest statements about the _____ of Jesus in the entire Bible, but it also tells us the only way we can get to _____. In fact, these two things are _____—we can’t have one without the other

3 ASPECTS OF JESUS’ DIVINE NATURE

#1. Jesus is equal to the Father in His _____.

“My Father is working until now, and I am working.” (John 5:17)

Jesus is saying here that because God is His Father, they have the same _____, and the same _____ to work on this day and on all days.

In Jewish thinking, to be a son was to share the _____ of the father. And so, Jesus was declaring Himself to be _____ with God

“This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but He was also calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.” (John 5:18)

“As the Father has life in Himself”—that is He doesn’t derive His life from others—“so He has granted the Son also to have life in Himself.” (John 5:26)

As the divine the Son—the 2nd person of the Trinity—Jesus too has _____ in Himself. In fact, He is life, and life lives naturally in Him, just as it does in the Father, because the Father and the Son are not two beings, but _____ being.

#2. Jesus is equal to the Father in His _____.

“The Son can do nothing of His own accord, but only what He sees the Father

doing. For whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all that He is doing.” (John 5:19)

The Father and the Son are not two _____ actors, each fulfilling private agendas, but rather work together in everything.

Theologians call this the “doctrine of _____,” that all the works of the Godhead—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—scribed in Scripture to any one of the three persons, belongs to God as a whole and is the work of all three.

#3. Jesus is equal to the Father in His _____.

“For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honour the Son, just as they honour the Father. Whoever does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent him.” (John 5:22-23)

The same _____ that’s due to God, the Father, is due to Jesus, the Son, because the judgment the Father executes is entrusted to the Son. In fact, we don’t worship the Father _____ if we don’t worship the Son. And we _____ the Father if we do not properly honour the Son.

These claims would not only have been _____ to Jesus’ original audience, but down right _____.

The thing that makes heaven, heaven—the glory and the beauty of heaven and the joy of every resident there—is the _____ of the exalted Christ, whose glorious face will fill our eyes and _____ our adoring gaze throughout eternity.

Doesn’t it make sense that if Jesus is who He said He is—the divine Son, second person of the Trinity, made flesh for us and for our salvation—that He Himself should also be the _____ to heaven?

it’s not yet the _____ Christ, ascended to heavenly glory, who speaks in John 5. It’s the same Jesus, but it’s Jesus in His _____. Jesus in the modesty of His earthly ministry. Jesus come among us as one of us to seek and save the lost. And He’s about to explain, as the ultimate expression and demonstration of His divine _____, the way to heaven, which is really very simple and clear: He, _____ is the way to heaven.

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except by Me.” (John 14:6)

When we think about the way to heaven, we shouldn’t be looking for _____ to take or tasks to perform, _____ or ideas to embrace, _____ to practice, or

behaviour to _____. It's not our religious activity, nor our moral status that'll get us into heaven. It's always and only through _____.

There's no way for us to _____ to heaven in our own strength. Heaven must come down in _____ of us.

That an infinite God should be united to _____ people, in Jesus; that the divine Lawmaker should become a human law keeper in Jesus; that the living God who has life in Himself should bleed and die in Jesus—all of this is the center and foundation of our _____.

A Christianity that doesn't center on _____ and trusting Jesus can't _____ an eternity where Jesus is the sun, the moon, and all the glory of heaven.

4 THINGS ABOUT THE WAY TO HEAVEN

#1. The _____ of eternal life.

"For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom He will." (John 5:21)

There's only one place in all the universe where we can get our hands on eternity. And so, if we want to get into heaven—we have to get it from the _____ hands of Jesus.

#2. The _____ of eternal life.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. 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." (John 5:24-25)

Verse 24 is in the _____ tense. In other words, whoever hears and believes the Word **already** has eternal life. They've **already** passed from death into life

Jesus gives life as His sovereign gift and the _____ of life—not the cause—is that we _____.

In the instant that new life erupts into a dead sinner's heart by the sovereign gift of Jesus and the mighty work of the Holy Spirit, _____ springs up and blossoms as the first motions of a _____ sinner.

#3. The two _____ of eternal life.

Eternal life can break in _____, in the middle of this dark and dying world, as Jesus calls us to Himself and works faith in our hearts by His Word and Spirit

In verse 24, Jesus tells us that anyone who has heard His word and believes Him who sent Jesus, has eternal life. They've passed from _____ to life. They can enter eternal life _____.

"The hour is now here when the dead will hear His voice and live." (John 5:25)

The life of heaven isn't just for when we _____—it isn't just about eternity—it's about here and now.

"An hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment." (John 5:28)

It's important that we get these two stages in the right _____. We need to have stage _____ before we can have stage _____.

The only true criterion to get into heaven isn't that we died, but that we've already come to _____ in Christ. We must be in heaven, or rather heaven must be in us before we can be in heaven.

#4. The _____ to eternal life.

"Those who have done good will rise to experience eternal life, and those who have continued in evil will rise to experience judgment." (John 5:29)

C.S. Lewis refers to these two destinies as "immortal _____ or everlasting _____."

There's a _____ coming, and Jesus is saying that when we come to rest in Him, and only Him, for everlasting life, judgment has already been _____. We've come through the judgment and have been _____ because He came to bear the judgment for us on the cross.

CONCLUSION

The question of heaven and whether or not we'll get there is an issue of extraordinary _____ that we all need to _____ for ourselves.

Flowing from the fact of Jesus' _____ is the right and power to bestow upon sinners the gift of _____ life. The possession of heaven, the right to go there, the life that belongs there, is in the _____ of Jesus alone. And so, If we want eternal life, if we want heaven, we must have _____. We must hear Him, trust Him, _____, and rest in Him.