

SIGNPOSTS

CURRICULUM



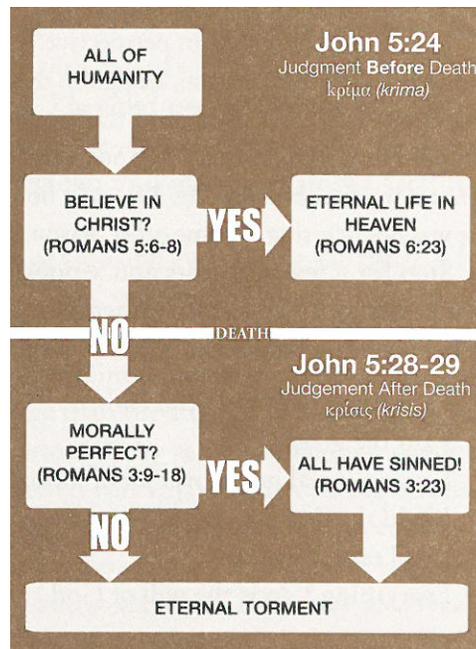
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Claim #5: "I will raise the dead" (verses 25-29)

First, read John 1:4 for a refresher. Jesus not only gives life, and not only has words of life, but He has life in His own being. He is the author of life. Again, the double amen, "truly, truly," emphasizes Jesus' statement that He will summon the dead to final judgment. Verse 25 has a double take on "hear." The first "hearing" is literal. The second has to do with comprehending the message and believing it. His statement has both a present and future aspect. He will summon the dead to judgment on the final day; however, the "dead" can receive life now.

This passage can be summarized by the following flowchart:



(Swindoll, Charles R. *Insights on John*, p. 119. Zondervan, 2010)

The phrases in verses 28 and 29 "done what is good" and "done what is evil," suggest that we are saved entirely based upon our moral action or "good works." But Jesus has already taught in verse 24 that salvation comes from hearing His Word and believing the One who sent Jesus, and He will teach this again in verse 40. So in this context, "doing what is good" equals faith in Jesus. This is clearly stated in John 6:29: "The work of God is this: to believe in the One He has sent."

"Son of Man"

The title "Son of Man" used in John 5:27 refers to Daniel 7:13-14 (go ahead and look it up!) and is a definite messianic title. It is used 12 times in John's Gospel and over 80 times in all four Gospels. The Jews would clearly know this title from their reading of the book of Daniel; and they would know that, by using it, Jesus was claiming to be the Messiah and the Judge.

Witness 4: The Scriptures (vv. 39-44)

Jesus says that the Scriptures, and the word of the Father speaking in the Scriptures, speak of Him. What passages does Jesus have in mind? One specific verse would be Isaiah 53:6, but Jesus seems to be saying that all of the Scriptures together are put together to lead the one who searches them to Jesus. The Old Testament leaves us with questions such as:

Who can be righteous?

What is the sufficient sacrifice for our sins?

Who is the good shepherd in the line of David?

Where is the kingdom that was promised?

Jesus is saying that all of these questions can only find the answer in Him through His work, death, and resurrection.

Witness 5: Moses (vv. 45-47)

The final witness is Moses, a man revered by the Jews. The writings of Moses had been twisted by the temple officials in a religion of works and were used as a means to reject Christ. Moses never wanted the law to become an end to itself. No one can keep it perfectly. Moses predicted the failure of the Israelite people and promised a Savior to lead them if they would heed his words.

Why didn't the religious leaders believe these witnesses to the truth of Jesus Christ? Jesus named two basic reasons.

Reason #1 is found in verses 40-43. What is it? HINT: Did the religious leaders not comprehend who Jesus was, or did they not want to? Why?

Reason #2 is found in verses 43-44. What is it? HINT: How does pride interfere with trusting in Jesus?

"These are the very Scriptures that testify about me." How does or should this truth direct the way you read your Bible?

If the Pharisees in this passage were members of your church today, what would they be like?

How has this whole chapter given you a greater view and awe of Jesus?

