

Sermon Series: Book of John
Sermon title: I AM the Resurrection and the Life
Scripture reading: John 11:17-27
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church
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Introduction:

We have been in the book of John this fall.
We took a look at the miracles that Jesus performs in
the book of John and now we are studying the 7 'I AM'
sayings of Jesus.

I am the Bread of Life.

I am the Light of the world.

I am the Door.

I am the Good Shepherd.

and today we will dive into Jesus's saying, *"I am the
Resurrection and the Life."*

Let's pray.

Turn in your Bible to John 11.

We will begin reading in verse 17.

17 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." **25** 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."

I. RESURRECTION LIFE IN THE FUTURE.

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

What does Jesus mean when he says, "I AM the Resurrection?"

It's not just that there will be a final resurrection but Jesus is calling Martha to deeper faith.

Martha clearly believes in the resurrection on the last day. She says so in verse 24.

But Jesus is calling her to a deeper faith. He wants her know more than just believing in the final resurrection. He wants her to know that it is through him that the resurrection and eternal life will happen.

Jesus has already states in **John 5:25-29** that the resurrection of the dead hinges on him.

24 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.

25 "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.

Think about power that Jesus has!

How many people have ever lived on the earth?

Jesus says here that every single one of them, by the speaking of his voice...will rise again and that their eternal destiny will be decided on whether they believed in him.

A final Resurrection will happen and it will happen because of Jesus.

This is what Jesus means when he says, *"I am the resurrection"*.

Now, when we look back to our verses in John 11 again, on the surface it seems like a contradiction in verses 25 & 26.

25 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.

He says 'though he die', which obviously means you WILL die and then he says that those who believe in him....'will never die.

So, which is it? Both are true actually.

For every single person, there will be a last breath physically. But for those who 'believe' in Jesus, life will continue and that life will continue without end.

So, there will be a death...a passing into another and we might add...a better existence with Jesus forever.

But this resurrection life....this eternal life is not just something that will happen in the future.

II. RESURRECTION LIFE IN THE PRESENT.

26 and everyone who **lives** and believes in me shall never die.

What does Jesus mean by the word lives?

He doesn't mean just breathing but he means those who have been born again...who have eternal life. Life in the book of John means the abundant and eternal life that Jesus gives.

Question: When does eternal life begin for the Christian?

This is called the "*already but not yet*" in theology. I **do** have eternal life and I **will** have eternal life.

The Christian has eternal life now. It began when you believed.

That's awesome!

So, because you already have eternal life....guaranteed by the Holy Spirit living in you.... it means that life here and now is not just something you tolerate until you get to 'eternal life' in heaven but

you experience LIFE now; that quality of life that Jesus alone gives.

How is Christ's resurrection power effectual for you today?

Romans 8:11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Do you see what that says?

The Spirit, who powerfully raised Jesus from the dead after he died on the cross, will raise you up, too.

Oh, and that's the same Holy Spirit who dwells (present tense) in you now. 2x it says, "Who dwells in you".

Ephesians 2:5

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us *alive* together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Resurrection life is not just something that we will receive when we get to heaven but is something that we have now and it will only get better after we die physically and pass on to be with Jesus face to face—and we will *never ever* die. (the Greek has a double negative for emphasis)

Jesus asked Martha....**“Do you believe this?”** -

This is not asking if Martha believes that Lazarus will rise again right now but whether she can believe not only in A resurrection at the last day but that Jesus is the one who will make it all happen.

APPLICATION:

Believer:

Rejoice in the fact that you have eternal life now! You will never really die. You'll just stop breathing for a moment.

Rejoice that from this day forward you will forever be with Jesus.

What has Jesus accomplished for you?

Listen to what the Bible says.

John 6:39 & 40

39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up

on the last day. **40** 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.”

John 6:44

44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

John 6:54

54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

Luke 23:43-

“Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Philippians 1:23

My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

2 Corinthians 5:8

Yes we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

John 14:2-3

In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for

you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

“Christians should view their own forthcoming death as an appointment in Jesus’ calendar, which he will faithfully keep.” J.I. Packer

Unbeliever: I plead with you; come to Christ. There is no hope but Jesus. The reason why we celebrate Christmas is because Jesus was born for a purpose; that purpose was to die for sinners like you and me so that we could have eternal life.

Just as **John 11:25-27** is true for the believer
25 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.

The opposite is true for the unbeliever.

“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever does not believe in me, though he die, he will continue dying forever.

John 5:25-29

25 “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.

“Those who are born twice die once.

Those who are born once die twice.” Joe Holland

Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Life comes down to one thing.

Believe in Jesus Christ or not.