

"TWO RESURRECTIONS"**Introduction**

1. The miracle at Bethesda
2. Christ not honoured, but attacked for it
3. Christ speaks of two resurrections

1. THE FIRST RESURRECTION: v.25

- 1) This is a resurrection of the SOUL – essential for salvation because:
 - (i) sinners are by nature dead in soul
 - (ii) we cannot do what the gospel requires
 - (iii) religion is vain without this: these critics
 - (iv) every faculty of the soul is dead
ILLUSTRATION: Eta Linnemann
- 2) How Christ raises the soul to new life:
 - (i) with gospel promises + warnings (exx)
 - (ii) an inward "voice" full of life (v.26)
 - (iii) it gives us "ears to hear"
 - (iv) every faculty of the soul comes to life
APPLICATION: Are you alive or dead – see v.24

2. THE SECOND RESURRECTION: v.28

- 1) This, by contrast, is the resurrection of the BODY.
- 2) Proof of the difference:
 - (i) evidence of renewal of soul: v.25
 - (ii) evidence of raised body: v.29
- 3) Sum of these 2 "voices" of Christ:
 - (i) call to faith and a Christian life
 - (ii) call to judgement and eternal state
APPLICATION: What "hours" are they? O think of your own soul!

- 4) The consequences of these events:
 - (i) the resurrection of the soul determines that of body
 - (ii) the person whose soul is made alive...
 - (iii) the unhappy resurrection of non-believers
- 5) There will be 2 conditions at the resurrection:
 - (i) "resurrection of life": See Matt. 25:31f
 - (ii) "resurrection of damnation"
APPLICATION: O see how vital is this to you.

3. THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING THIS SPIRITUAL RESURRECTION

I speak now especially to those who have not yet professed faith in Christ:

- 1) You see clearly in v.24 what Christ requires of you to get this life.
- 2) You see clearly what will be your end if you do not believe:
 - (i) v.24: "condemnation"
 - (ii) v.29 also
- 3) I press on you the imagery of this:
 - (iii) "I will seek it some day." Ah!
 - (iv) "I am too young"
 - (v) "I am too old"
 - (vi) "How can I be sure it works?"

CONCLUSION

Illustration: a time-bomb ticking.
You must believe or perish.

PSALM

95: 1 – 5

10: 4 – 8

95: 6 – 11