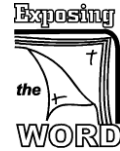




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# The Gospel of **Verifying** John the MESSIAH

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## 25- I Am the Resurrection and the Life:

*John 11:25-26*

Jesus made many bold statements concerning Who He is. He also stated many times that He alone was the Way to God.

***Joh 8:24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins. He stated in Joh 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."***

The disciples and apostles certainly taught this as fact. John wrote in ***John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.***

***1Ti 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;***

***Act 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.***

But if Jesus could only speak words and inspire others to speak words without any demonstrative proof to move from words to facts, then words fail. If Jesus can do nothing about death, describes in ***1Co 15:26 as "The last enemy that shall be destroyed ..."*** then His is only words. Remember Paul stated in ***1 Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.***

Also, if there is another way to God except for Christ then God was crazy for allowing Him to suffer. Remember what Jesus prayed in the Garden as recorded in ***Matthew 26:39 "...O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."***

This section of the Scriptures that we find ourselves in this session is very timely.

An article on [www.sbc.net](http://www.sbc.net) by Mike Licon dated July 22, 2008 and entitled *Is Jesus the only way?* states:

A June report by the Pew Research Center revealed some interesting stats: 57 percent of the evangelical surveyed reported believing that "many religions can lead to eternal life."

He also gave results of a LifeWay Research Poll that, "found that 31 percent of Protestant churchgoers believe a person can obtain eternal life through "religions other than Christianity.""

If this is true, than Jesus was a liar about He alone giving life and providing a way to the Father. So therefore the claim we face here is critically important.

Now He stands in the presence of death. Lazarus is dead and Jesus has waited for four days to pass since he died. He is talking with Martha, Lazarus sister. He makes perhaps His greatest statement.

***John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?***

Let us now look at this declaration of Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life.

### I- I AM:

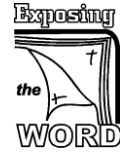
Again we have the declaration of Christ as I AM. Remember this is the Hebrew word YHWH that we pronounce Yahwah or Jehovah. This again identifies Christ with God the Father as revealed in ***Exo 3:14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.***



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## II- The Resurrection:

The next thing we focus on is the word THE. As we have previously stated Jesus is not one of many ways to God. He is not one of a couple ways to God. He said plainly that He is the way to eternal life. How do we see this? Simple, in the fact that He is the Resurrection. Remember He is talking with the sisters of Lazarus whom He is within a short time going to bring back to life.

Jesus is claiming here to have the same power over death that God the Father has.

This also points of the inability of man to ever bring life for dead objects.

It is illustrated by the story of the professor of biology.

A professor of biology made it his custom to stand before his students holding up a little seed between his thumb and forefinger. When he bowed before the seed, his students were mystified. This university professor had spent his whole life studying the beginning of life, and he acknowledged to his students that it was still a mystery to him. He said: "I know exactly what this seed consists of in the exact proportions of water, carbon, and other elements. I can mix these individual elements and make a seed that will look exactly like this one. If I plant the seed that I have compounded, it will rot. The various elements I have put together will be absorbed by the ground. However, if I sow the seed that God made, it will spring up into a plant, because it contains that mysterious element we call life."

Mankind cannot cause the resurrection of his body any more than they can cause life from dead matter. This leave the

creation of life and the giving of life to God alone.

## III- The Life:

At the risk of circular reasoning allow me to explain it this way. He is the Resurrection because He is Life and He is Life because He is the Resurrection. The Bible declares in *Joh 1:1;4 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*

This was also not the first time Jesus had claimed to have life within Himself. *Joh 5:21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.*

This is the highest claim to divinity that Christ could have made.

*The People's New Testament* by B.W. Johnson says:

Christ makes the grand, striking declaration that he is the RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE, words that never could have fallen from the lips of a sane mortal. They mean that he is the power which opens every grave, gives life to the sleepers, and calls them forth to a new existence; that the life that endows men with eternal being is in him and proceeds from him. In the light of his own resurrection they mean that when he burst open the tomb he did it for humanity and in him humanity has won the victory over death.

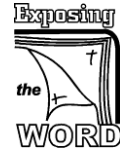
Paul would later write to the Corinthians, *1 Corinthians 15:53-57 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put*



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*on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

#### **IV- Faith is Essential:**

Martha had made a great declaration of faith just before this. Jesus had told her that her brother would rise again. *Joh 11:24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.*

Jesus moves the faith of Martha, and us as well, from the teaching of the Old Testament thought of eternal life to the person of Jesus. The resurrection that had not been fully fleshed out in the Old Testament is now standing before her in the person of Jesus Christ. He declared that it is all a matter of believing.

*John 11:25...he that believeth in me...26 whosoever liveth and believeth in me...*

How can we know these things are true? Well He gave the great proof of the resurrection of Lazarus to show them to be so. Jesus asks the question after this declaration, *Believeth thou this?*

#### **V- Dead and Alive:**

*John 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.*

He says that even if someone is dead in Christ that in fact they are only dead physically. If we are alive in Christ then we know when we experience death of the body that the soul returns to God and is not dead. *2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say,*

*and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*

Let us end this great statement of Christ being the Resurrection and the life with a story that I think sums it up so well.

In April, the Sunday school teacher asked all eight children in her class to hide within an empty container a small object that represented life in the spring.

Not wanting to embarrass eight-year-old Stephen, whose mental retardation was becoming more manifest, the teacher suggested that the children all place their unlabeled containers on her desk. Since she feared that Stephen might not have caught on, she decided that she should open them.

The first had a tiny flower. "What a lovely sign of new life!" "I brought that one!" the donor exclaimed. Next came a rock. "That must be Stephen's," the teacher thought, since rocks do not symbolize new life. But Billy shouted that his rock had moss on it, and moss was new life. The teacher agreed.

A butterfly flew from the third container, and another child bragged that her choice was best of all.

The fourth container was empty. "That has to be Stephen's," thought the teacher, quickly reaching for the fifth.

"Please, don't skip mine!" Stephen interjected. "But it's empty." "That's right," said Stephen. "The tomb was empty, and that is new life for everyone."

Later that summer, Stephen's condition grew worse, and he died. On his casket at the funeral, mourners found eight containers. They were ALL EMPTY.