

QUESTION: What does John 5:25 mean? Are they talking about the dead who are unsaved, will they get a second chance?

ANSWER:

- **John 5:24-25** "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has EVERLASTING LIFE, and shall NOT come into judgment, **but has PASSED from DEATH into LIFE**. Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when **the DEAD will HEAR the VOICE of the Son of God; and those who hear will LIVE.**"

Jesus is talking about unsaved **people who are physically alive but spiritually "dead"** . See Question #4 above, where Jesus is speaking to the man who said, 'Lord, let me first go and bury my father.' Jesus said to him, '**Let the DEAD bury their own DEAD**, but you go and preach the kingdom of God' (Luke 9:59-62), so we know that Jesus is speaking of people who are physically alive, but spiritually dead. When a person accepts Jesus Christ as their Savior and is born again, they receive eternal life, and are actually **PASSED from DEATH into everlasting LIFE**. The Bible says that **we are all DEAD in our sins**, until we are born again by faith in Jesus Christ (when we "hear His voice"), and **then we are MADE ALIVE** by the Holy Spirit.

- **Ephesians 2:1-2 & 4-6** "And you *He made alive*, **who were DEAD in trespasses and sins**, in which you once walked according to the course (system) of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air (Satan), the spirit who now works in the sons (children) of disobedience." (Verses 4-5) "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even **when we were DEAD in trespasses**, has **made us ALIVE** together with Him (by grace you have been saved)."

You asked if the dead will get a second chance, and the answer is "No." Just a few verses later, in John 5:28-29, Jesus now refers to the actual physically dead, because He says, "**All who are in the graves**" , and He says that they will be resurrected to face judgment for what they have done in this life, and as to whether they believed in Jesus or not.

- **John 5:28-29** "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which **ALL who are in the GRAVES** will hear His voice and come forth - those who have done good, to **the RESURRECTION of LIFE**, and those who have done evil, to **the resurrection of CONDEMNATION**."
- **Hebrews 9:27** "And as it is appointed for men **to die once**, but after this the judgment."
- **Romans 2:16** "In **the DAY when God will JUDGE** the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel."
- **Acts 17:31** "Because He has appointed **a DAY on which He will JUDGE the world** in righteousness by the Man (Jesus) whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."
- **Revelation 20:11-15** "Then I saw **a great white THRONE** and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and **books were opened**. And another book was opened, which is **the Book of Life**. And the dead were **judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books**. The sea gave up the dead [*bodies*] who were in it, and Death (the grave) and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were **JUDGED**, each one according to his works. Then death and Hades were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is

the second death. And anyone who was NOT found written in the BOOK of LIFE was cast into the LAKE of FIRE."

- **II Thessalonians 2:12** "That they all may **be condemned** (judged) who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

Definition: "They were JUDGED, each one according to his WORKS" - At first glance, this might seem like there is a chance for some people to be saved by their good works. However, the Bible says there is only one kind of work that **a spiritually dead person can do, and that is DEAD WORKS**. Dead works are **religious works** or **good deeds** done in the **power of the flesh**, and a person who is operating in their FLESH, and not in FAITH and the power of the Holy Spirit, **CANNOT** do ANYTHING that will be pleasing to God (Rom. 8:8). This is why there is no salvation apart from Jesus Christ, because it is NOT the keeping of laws, ordinances, rules, commandments, or any OUTWARD conduct that makes a person RIGHTEOUS. There must be **a NEW BIRTH, a CREATION by GOD** of a completely NEW PERSON, for someone to become alive spiritually. You must then be under the control of the Holy Spirit and cleansed by the blood of Jesus in order to produce any works that will be considered GOOD by God.

- **Hebrews 9:14** "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge (cleanse) your conscience **from DEAD works** to serve the living God?"