

He that
heareth
My word,
and
believeth

...

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. [John 5:24]

There are twenty five occasions in the gospel of John where the Lord Jesus is recorded as using the form of address, ***“Verily, Verily, I say unto you (plural) or thee (singular)”***. On each occasion it was to draw His hearers attention to a notable statement that He was about to make, statements of sublime truth and depth that we ourselves need to heed, such as above. There is a double emphasis upon the ***“Verily”*** meaning ‘of a truth’. He is the embodiment of divine truth, the One who revealed truth in a way that none before or after Him could. They were statements spoken with calm repose and authority even in the face of hostility with those around that despised Him. He would tell them what they needed to hear for their own good if only they would turn and listen to His word.

He that heareth My word

The discourse from where these words are taken began when the Lord made the statement ***“My Father worketh hitherto, and I work”*** (John 5:17) and was recognised immediately by His hearers as being a claim of equality with God as is the case as He proved repeatedly. His hearers rejected such a claim to which the Lord responded by emphasising that all He said and did was in complete accord with the Father and not as one acting independently of

Him. To honour the Son is to honour the Father that sent Him and hence the need to embrace the Son's words and substance of His teaching wholeheartedly. It is the imbibing of His teaching into our hearts and souls, in recognition of the truth that He spoke with an authority that eclipses any other being. He could only speak truth.

And believeth on Him that sent Me

God had formerly given a law through Moses centuries earlier, but salvation could never come by law keeping or good works: it could only expose man's sin and guilt. God has now given His Son to override the Law and to accomplish what no law could ever do. To believe on God the Father who sent the Son is to acknowledge this truth and the unique and vital mission He came to fulfil.

It is to believe the sure testimony that God has now given to us of His Son: ***“He that believeth not God hath made Him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son”*** (1 John 5:10). It is to confess that Christ came in the full accord and blessing and will of the Father. It is the submission to and the reception of Him and His sacrifice on the Cross and ensuing resurrection from the dead as the sole ground upon which God will accept us in peace.

Hath everlasting life

This was the truth that the Lord sought to impress upon His hearers and all who subsequently note His words; It is those that ***“Hear”*** and ***“Believe”*** who become possessors of ***“Everlasting Life”***. This is the one vital possession that we need prior to our departure from this world: it cannot be acquired once we've gone. This is not vain presumption but certain fact based on the work of the Cross. There need be no doubts, no hesitations of the matter. It cannot be wrenched away from anyone. It depends on our dependency upon Him and not on ourselves. It is a matter of believing and receiving.

And shall not come into condemnation

It is an impossibility for the believing one to be condemned for the committal of sin. The Lord had taught earlier that ***“He that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the Name of the only begotten Son of God”*** (John 3:18). This is the dreadful hope, even if not appreciated, of the unbeliever. We see why the Lord speaks with such necessity. He taught further the basis of the condemnation ***“that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil”*** (John 3:19). He was that Light who men sought to extinguish on the cross but there He gained the great victory for mankind.

It should be noted however that true conversion will bring a repulsion of the sin once practiced, not licence to continue in it. ***“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit”*** (Romans 8:1). Some claim they have everlasting life but their conduct denies a life controlled by the Holy Spirit. This is hypocrisy, a sham.

But is passed from death unto life

The true believer has passed from one state into another and cannot be taken back to the former. This is because it is God ***“Who hath delivered us from the power or darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son”*** (Colossians 1:13).

Many though insist that death ends it all. The Son could again testify: ***“For the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice. And shall come forth”*** (John 5:28), unto the resurrection of life or of damnation in the Lake of Fire. The One who spoke the worlds into existence with His voice will similarly reconstitute men’s bodies for their final destiny. Let us therefore take heed to His voice now and thus pass ***“from death unto life.”***