Rock Valley Bible Church (www.rvbc.cc)

2024-045

November 3, 2024 by Steve Brandon

Jesus Bears Witness About Himself

John 5:19-31

1. “I Do the Work of God” (verses 19-20).
2. “I Give Life” (verse 21).
3. “I Will Judge” (verse 22).
4. “I Receive Honor” (verse 23).
5. “Believe Me!” (verse 24).
6. “I Have Life” (verses 25-26).
7. “I Will Judge” (verses 27-29).

In August of 1941, from 7:45 pm to 8pm, C. S. Lewis gave 15 minute live radio talks on BBC radio in Great Britain. If you aren’t familiar with BBC, it’s a bit like our NPR radio for America, the station is entirely secular, funded by the government, with a large reach to the entire nation. These radio talks were entitled, “Right or Wrong: A Clue to the Meaning of the Universe,” essentially giving reasons for the existence of God.

The response to these talks were mixed. Some people loved them. Some people hated them. But the response was large enough that the following year, January and February of 1942, BBB gave Lewis an opportunity to do a second set of talks. This time, he talks focused on the core beliefs of Christianity. Over the next few years, Lewis two other sets of talks on BBC, focusing on other aspects of Christian life and ethics.

Essentially, C. S. Lewis was able to present the case for Christianity on the public air waves in Britain. These broadcasts were quickly turned into books. The first book was entitled, “Broadcast talks” (1942). The second book was entitled, “Christian Behaviour” (1943). The third book was entitled, “Beyond Personality” (1944). Finally, they were all put together into one book, entitled, “Mere Christianity.”[1] The book has come to be a classic in Christian literature.

Perhaps the most notable and most memorable sections in these books has to do with his notable, “Liar, Lunatic, or Lord.”[2] You have heard a dilemma, right? It’s a choice between two things. Should I stay? Or should I go? A “trilemma” is a choice between three things. Lewis put forth three choices: If you take Jesus at face value, from what is recorded in the gospels, you have no other options, but to conclude that Jesus was either a liar, a lunatic or the Lord. Either Jesus was deceiving everybody, saying things that he knew weren’t true, because he was a liar. Or a crazy man, who really believed the things that he said, even though they were nonsense, making Jesus a lunatic. Or Jesus was truthful in what he said, and is the Lord of the universe.

Here is what Lewis wrote:

> I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.
>
> We are faced, then, with a frightening alternative. This man we are talking about either was (and is) just what He said or else a lunatic, or something worse. Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God. God has landed on this enemy-occupied world in human form.[3]

I do believe that these are our only options when we think about Jesus. He is either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord of all. We see this trilemma demonstrated in our text this morning. So, if you haven’t done so already, I invite you to open in your Bibles to John, chapter 5. For the past few weeks, we have been in this chapter, considering the miracle that Jesus did at the pool of Bethesda, healing a man who had been lame for 38 years, simply by telling him to “Get up, take up your bed, and walk” (John 5:8). That’s exactly what the man did. He rose. He picked up his sleeping

mat and walked home. All would have been OK, except for the fact that Jesus said these things on the Sabbath.

> John 5:9
> Now that day was the Sabbath.

This incensed the Jewish leaders of the day, who began to persecute Jesus. Look at verse 16.

> John 5:16
> And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath.

As we looked at last week, the Jews were so concerned about keeping the Sabbath, that they were blind to the miraculous power of Jesus. Then Jesus said to them (in verse 17),

> John 5:17
> But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”

Essentially saying, “I don’t need to keep the Sabbath, because my Father doesn’t keep the Sabbath. He is working to sustain the universe. So I will continue to do my work, Sabbath day or not! As one who is equal with God, I’m not bound by your Sabbath laws.” This response of Jesus, claiming that he was equal to God, was enough for the Jews to seek to kill him. That’s what we see in John 5:18.

> John 5:18
> This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

This is what we will see throughout the rest of the gospel of John. The Jews will seek to kill him. and they will succeed in chapter 19, lifting him up upon the cross, but that’s a bunch of chapters down the road. Today, we are in chapter 5, beginning in verse 19, where Jesus launches on a testimony about himself. The title of my message this morning is, “Jesus Bears Witness about Himself.” So let’s read these verses:

John 5:19-31

So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. 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.

"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. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

“I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true.

Now, as I began my message this morning, I talked about C. S. Lewis and the trilemma that he presented: Jesus is either a Liar, a Lunatic, or the Lord. I want to show you how this works by these verses again. But this time, I want for you to think about them as if I said them about myself. Too often, we read verses like I just read and become numb to thinking about their impact.

So, just imagine me saying these things about me.

John 5:19-31

“Truly, truly, I say to you, I can do nothing of my own accord, but only what I see the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that do I do likewise. For the Father loves me and shows him all that he himself is

> doing. And greater works than these will he show me, so that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also I give life to whom I will. For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to me, that all may honor me, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor me does not honor the Father who sent me. 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.
>
> "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear my voice, the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted me also to have life in myself. And he has given me authority to execute judgment, because I am the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear my voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.
>
> "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true.

I trust that you can see how wrong this appears, that I, a mere human, born of flesh and blood, could make such claims! You can see that such things are obviously not true! If I tried to pass these things off on you, I would be a liar. and you would know that I'm a liar. But if I were convinced that these things were true, I would be a lunatic, because these things aren't true, despite what I believe.

So we come to Jesus. and his moral character certainly keeps us from concluding that Jesus was a lunatic. Whether or not Jesus fulfilled these statements is what will help us determine whether or not he was a liar, or the Lord of the universe. So let's look at what Jesus said. I want to begin by looking at verses 30 and 31, because they help to show us what Jesus is doing in the first part of his narrative in chapter 5. Jesus says this,

> <u>John 5:30-31</u>
> "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true.

Verse 31 is the key. In it, Jesus speaks about bearing witness about himself. In verse 32, Jesus will transition to speak about what others say about Jesus. Look at verse 32.

> John 5:32
> There is another who bears witness about me, and Jesus goes on to talk about John the Baptist. How John bore witness to Jesus.

Then, in verse 36, Jesus says,

> John 5:36
> For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me.

Then, in verse 37, Jesus speaks about how "the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me." Then, Jesus goes on to speak about how the Old Testament Scripture bears witness to Jesus. But we will look at all of those next week. This week, we are looking at what Jesus says about himself. Thus, the title of my message, "Jesus Bears Witness about Himself." This is what he's saying in verses 30 and 31. He's simply telling us that he's speaking on his own accord.

In alignment with the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15), judgments were not to be made on the basis of one person's testimony. only on the basis of two or three. So, when Jesus says, "

> John 5:31
> If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true.

That is, "Don't believe my words. Listen to the words of others." But this morning, we will be listening to the words of Jesus. My outline this morning is a long list of the claims that Jesus made.

First off, Jesus says,

1. "I Do the Work of God" (verses 19-20).

This is what Jesus says in verse 19.

> John 1:19-20
> So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing

> of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.

Jesus claims to have a divine connection with God. He calls himself the Son. He calls God his Father. Jesus claims that he can see what God, the Father is doing. Jesus claims that he does what the Father does. Jesus claims that he is the object of the Father's love. Jesus claims that the Father shows him all that he is doing, which is exactly what Jesus does. He does the work of God. He does the Father's work!

I saw a great illustration of this yesterday. It was at our Father-Son retreat. This year was the 13th annual Father-Son retreat at Rock Valley Bible Church. I am very grateful for Darryn's leadership in this event year by year. It's a very fun, and I hope, impactful in the lives of our sons.

One of the hallmarks of our retreats is the building projects that fathers and sons to together. We have built all sorts of fun little projects. This year, we build sling-shots from PVC pipe. We were given instructions from Popular Mechanics of what we built. Darryn brought all of the supplies, and the fathers spent time with their sons building these things together. Fathers worked with the sons, showing them how to apply the primer to the PVC pipes, then, how to apply the cement. Then, how to put them together. In my case, I showed David how to do this on the first one. He then did all of the other joints. The result was a slingshot that does quite well, at shooting pine cones and rocks.

This is what Jesus is saying here in verses 19-20, my Father has shown me his work, and I'm doing his work. 1. "I Do the Work of God" (verses 19-20). All that Jesus has done so far in the book of John is what the Father has shown him to do.

- Changing the water into wine in Cana (chapter 2).
- Cleansing the temple in Jerusalem (chapter 2).
- Speaking to Nicodemus about the New Birth (chapter 3).
- Carrying on with a baptism ministry (chapter 4).
- Speaking with the woman at the well.
- Do you remember when the disciples came back from the town with food? They were surprised when Jesus told them, "I have food to eat

that you do not know about" (John 4:32). Jesus said, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work" (John 4: 34). Jesus said, "I do the work of God!"

- Healing the royal official's son (chapter 4)
- Healing the lame man on the Sabbath (chapter 5).

These are all the works that Jesus sees the Father doing. The Father shows these things to the Son. The Son does these things. But Jesus claims that he is only getting started. Look again at verse 20,

> John 5:20
> greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.

Jesus is going to do even greater works than we have seen so far. In chapter 6, we will see Jesus feed the 5,000 and walk on water. In chapter 9, we will see Jesus heal the blind man. In chapter 11, we will see Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead. In chapter 20, we will see Jesus, himself, rise from the dead. He will do these things, "that we might marvel" at the works of God, that Jesus does. In fact, this is the whole point of why John wrote his gospel account, that we would marvel at the works of Jesus. that we would see these signs and believe (John 20:30-31).

Let's continue on to verse 21. Jesus says,

2. "I Give Life" (verse 21).

Let's read verse 21,

> John 5:21
> For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.

Jesus begins this verse by describing the life-giving power of God. "The Father raises the dead and gives them life." God created the world. God is the creator of life. He gives life to all whom he wishes, even to those who have died. Jesus claims that he is able to do the same.

> John 5:21
> so also the Son gives life to whom he will.

Jesus claims that he can give life, just as the Father can! Jesus claims the he can raise the dead! That's the claim of a lunatic! unless, of course, it is true, that Jesus can indeed raise the dead.

When we get to John, chapter 11, we will see how true this is. When Jesus comes to Bethany, where his friends, Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived. When Jesus arrived, Lazarus had died only a few days before. Jesus came to the tomb and told them to take the stone away (John 11:39). Martha was concerned about how bad the odor would be as his body had already been in the tomb for four days at that point (John 11:39). Jesus told her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" (John 11:40). "Did I not tell you that I would do greater works than merely healing a lame man?" (see John 5:20).

Then, Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me. When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go" (John 11: 41-44).

This is Jesus, giving life as he will! It has been said that if Jesus had not called Lazarus by name, all of the tombs in earshot of the shout of Jesus would have been emptied, as all in the tombs would have come forth from the dead! In this case, it was Lazarus who rose from the dead. Later, we will see the Jews again plotting to kill Lazarus, because many were believing in Jesus because they were seeing Lazarus, risen from the dead (John 12:9-11).

The works of Jesus are undeniable! He isn't some liar or lunatic. Jesus is the Lord! But that's not all that Jesus says about himself. Look at verse 22.

> John 5:22
> For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son,

Here we see Jesus saying,

3. "I Will Judge" (verse 22).

Jesus here claims that God has given “all judgment to the Son.” I believe that this has primary reference to the end of the world, when all of the living and the dead will be brought before the throne of God, for the final judgment. Jesus here claims that this it is his throne that all will stand before! Jesus here claims that he will be the one making the final call of eternal life or death to those who stand before him on that day.

What an audacious claim! The Scripture is clear that God is the judge of the creation. In Genesis 18:25, Abraham calls God, “The Judge of all the earth.” Psalm 50:6 says "The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge!" Ecclesiastes 12:14 says "For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil." It’s clear. If you read the Old Testament, you will see that God is the judge of the world. It only makes sense that God, the creator of the world, has the final say in how the world goes. Here we read the claim of Jesus.

> John 5:22
> For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son,

That is, God the has delegated the judgment of the world to Jesus. What a claim! Now, it only makes sense in light of everything that John has written thus far. Remember, there is this connection between God as creator and God as judge. The creator of the world can do as he wants with the world.

We read in the first verses of John, how Jesus is the creator-God. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:1-3).

Jesus is the creator. Jesus is the judge. Again, verse 22,

> John 5:22
> For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son,

Are these the words of a liar? Are these the words of a lunatic? Or, are these the words of the Lord? The Lord, Jesus Christ? You can either believe that Jesus is the judge today? Or wait to verify it later when you stand before Jesus in the final judgement, but then, of course, it may be too late for you.

Today, you must bow your knee to Jesus and give him the glory and honor that he deserves. This is what Jesus says in verse 23. Jesus is the judge.

> John 5:23
> that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

Here's our fourth point this morning.

4. "I Receive Honor" (verse 23).

Here we see the claims of Jesus to deity. The Old Testament is clear. The LORD has said that all glory and honor should be given to him! "I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other" (Isaiah 42:8). Isaiah 48:11 says the same thing: "My glory I will not give to another." There is a warning given to all who do so. The first two of the Ten Commandments tells us that we shall not give glory and honor to any other gods by worshiping them.

Listen to the beginning of Exodus 20: And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth" (Exodus 20:1-4).

Then the LORD gives a reason. "You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments" (Exodus 20:5-6).

God is a jealous God, who will not give his glory to another! Yet, here is Jesus in our text this morning, claiming that he receives honor from others. In fact, Jesus says that he is the judge.

> John 5:23
> that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

This only makes sense if Jesus is God! That is, of course, if Jesus was a liar or a lunatic. Will you hear the testimony of Jesus? Will you hear what Jesus says about

himself? Will you honor and worship him?

OK, let’s move on. Verse 24,

5. “Believe Me!” (verse 24).

> John 5:24
> 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.

Here, again, we come to the premise of the gospel of John. We are called to believe in Jesus. Again and again in our exposition, we have repeated the purpose in John’s writing. John says in chapter 20, verses 30-31, "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." That is, John has written his gospel account of the life of Jesus, not including everything that he knew and experienced about Jesus, but including some select snippets of his life, that we might believe that Jesus is the Christ, and that by believing we may have life in his name.

It’s not only at the end of the gospel that John mentions this. He mentions it throughout his entire narrative. We have seen this already a few times: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). The same message comes in John 3: 36, with the negative added on for emphasis: "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him" (John 3:36).

Here also, in verse 24 of our text, we see the same message with the negative added to help understand what this life is.

> John 5:24
> 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.

Eternal life means that you avoid the judgment because the judgment will bring death to your soul. Eternal life is life forever with God. This is the great reality of

the message of the gospel of John. To believe in Jesus is to have eternal life! To believe in Jesus is to avoid the death that comes in the final judgement for those who don't believe! This is John's message. Do you believe this message? If you don't believe these things, you believe that Jesus is lying. You believe that these things aren't true. You believe that you will escape the judgment some other way. But the character of Jesus, known to all, is that he was an honest man.

Do you believe this message? If you don't, you are calling Jesus a liar. Maybe you think that he was well-intended, but mistaken. Then, you are calling Jesus a lunatic! Believe what Jesus said. Believe in him! The promise of verse 24 is eternal life.

OK, Let's quickly move on to verse 25.

> John 5:25-26
> 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. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

Here we see the repetitive nature of the gospel of John. Jesus says,

6. "I Have Life" (verses 25-26).

This is very similar to what Jesus says in verse 21, "I Give Life." Verse 25 speaks about Jesus giving life to those who will hear his voice in the last day and rise from the dead! They rise from the dead because, as verse 26 says, Jesus has life! Jesus can give life! You can only give what you have. I can't give to somebody a Rolls Royce, because I don't have a Rolls Royce to give! I can't give to somebody a cabin in Wisconsin, because I don't have a cabin in Wisconsin. But I can give what I have. I have books, so I can give books. I have some expertise in computers, so I can give computer help.

Our presidential election is coming up on Tuesday. A few weeks ago in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Elon Musk has raised some concerns by his tactics to get people to sign a petition in support of the First and Second Amendment. He said, "We are going to be awarding $1 million randomly to people who have signed the petition, every day, from now until the election." Now, there are huge questions about the legality of this. But, there is no question about his ability to do this. Elon Musk is the richest man in the world. He has the resources to do this.

The story that we considered earlier, about Lazarus, is the proof that Jesus can raise the dead and give life, because Jesus has life in himself! So likewise with Jesus, he can raise people from the dead, because he has life in himself. Before raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus said to Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die" (John 11:25-26). That’s Jesus. He has life! He can give life. It’s why Jesus can make the promise of everlasting life: because he has everlasting life to give, and he gives it to all who believe! So, believe in him today! Because, you will face him someday in the judgment.

> John 5:27
> And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

Jesus says,

7. “I Will Judge” (verses 27-29).

He said the same thing in verse 22, "For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son." Jesus will judge. He will judge you someday. He will judge me someday. Jesus has the authority to execute the judgment. In verses 28 and 29, Jesus explains a bit about what will take place:

> John 5:28-29
> Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

Here we see the power to give life and to raise the dead by the mere sound of his voice! Here we see the power to judge those who raise. Some questions might arise in verse 29, where Jesus is judging people based upon their deeds. Those who have done good to life. Those who have done evil to judgment. Yet, to maintain that this means that we will ultimately be judged by what we do in this life would contradict the entire message of the gospel of John. Everlasting life comes through belief in Jesus (John 3:16; 11:25; John 20:30-31). Yet, these words are written, not to contradict what John is saying, but to supplement. This is how it supplements. Those who believe in Jesus will be transformed and change to do that which is good (John 3:1-8). Those who don’t believe will be left in their sin.

That is, when Jesus judges, he will judge based upon works, but your works are a demonstration of your faith. In Ephesians 2:8-9, the message is clear, that we are saved by grace through faith. But then the next verse shows how this faith will work itself out in works that we walk in. "we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10). When you believe and trust in Christ, the grace of God comes on you, which changes you and transforms you, so that you wank in the works that God has prepared for you. So, at the judgment, Jesus will look at your works and say, "Have you walked in the works that I have prepared for you?" If so, it's an evidence of your faith, and you will enjoy the resurrection of life. But if you walk in your own ways in your sin, you will face your condemnation in the resurrection of judgment.

So don't dismiss these verses that speak about Jesus judging by whether you have done good or evil (like verse 29 is saying). Now, you have to understand this in light of the gospel of John, which is clear that you are not saved by your works. But God will transform you to do the works you are called to do.

So, let's go back to the beginning of my message, and the question that C. S. Lewis puts toward us: Is Jesus a Liar, a Lunatic, or Lord? Now, if you come to my conclusion that Jesus is Lord, what does that mean for your life? It means that you need to bow your knee to him and trust him as your sovereign God. Are your trusting in Jesus? Has he transformed your life? Do you now of what Jesus spoke about when he talked about the new birth? Are your putting forth the good works that God has prepared for you to do? (Ephesians 2:10). Will you experience the resurrection of life?

The last words in our text is an affirmation of the truthfulness of these words. Jesus said,

> John 5:30-31
> I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. 31 If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true.

His testimony is true. I invite you today to believe in him! Don't let another day go by without believing in him. Don't go away today just saying, "That was interesting," as if you are merely going to think about what I said. That's not my purpose this morning. My purpose this morning is to urge you to deal with these

things in your life. Believe in Jesus. Submit yourself to him.

This sermon was delivered to Rock Valley Bible Church on November 3, 2024 by Steve Brandon.
For more information see www.rockvalleybiblechurch.org.

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[1] You can read his book for free here: https://archive.org/details/MereChristianityCSL/mode/2up.

[2] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mere_Christianity.

[3] C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity (London: Geoffrey Bles, 1952), 42-43.