

“Alive Now. Accountable Then.”

Text: Hebrews 6:1–2

◆ INTRODUCTION (3 MIN)

Family, today we are closing our **Foundations series**, and we are ending with two truths that the Bible says are not optional — they are **foundational**. My heart today is not to place weight on you, but to let the Word of God call us deeper into the life Christ has already given us.

Hebrews 6:1–2 says:

“Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.” (Hebrews 6:1–2, NIV)

These are not advanced teachings.

These are not “nice-to-have” beliefs.

These are **things every believer must understand and live by**.

So today, I want to bring these two together in one message:

👉 **The resurrection of the dead**

👉 **Eternal judgment**

And here is the big idea I want you to walk away with:

“You have been raised by Christ — and you will stand before Christ.”

Say it with me:

👉 **Alive now. Accountable then.**

◆ 1. THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION (12 MIN)

Let’s start with the **resurrection of the dead**.

✅ 1.1 The Resurrection is Foundational

The Bible is clear:

“If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.” (1 Corinthians 15:13–14, NIV)

In other words:

👉 If the resurrection is not real — Christianity collapses. But because Christ truly rose, we are not left in fear or uncertainty; we are invited into a living hope.

Our faith stands on two truths:

- Jesus rose from the dead
- We will be raised from the dead

And hear me clearly:

This is not symbolic — it is **literal, spiritual, and eternal reality**.

✅ 1.2 Why Resurrection is Needed

God created man to **live forever with Him**.

But sin entered:

- First came **spiritual death**
- Then came **physical death**

Sin **separated us from God** — and that brought death.

So resurrection is not just a miracle...

👉 It is **God** restoring what sin destroyed.

✅ 1.3 Jesus: The Firstfruits

The Bible says:

“For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.” (1 Corinthians 15:22–24, NIV)

Jesus didn’t just rise for Himself.

👉 He rose as the **first of many**.

Like a seed:

“Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” (John 12:24, NIV)

His resurrection guarantees:

👉 **Your resurrection**

✅ 1.4 Resurrection Starts NOW

This is where many believers miss it.

Resurrection is not only future — it starts the moment you are saved.

The Bible says:

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,” (Ephesians 2:1, NIV)

This means:

- You were spiritually dead
- Now you are spiritually alive

And Romans 6:11 says:

“In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 6:11, NIV)

👉 This is the **first resurrection**:

- Your spirit is restored
- Your relationship with God is restored

Let me say it clearly:

Resurrection is not just something ahead of you — it is something inside you. So if you have felt numb, distant, or weary, hear the invitation of God today: come alive again to what He has already placed within you.

✅ 1.5 The Power of Resurrection in You

Romans 8:11 says:

“And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.” (Romans 8:11, NIV)

That means:

- You are not powerless
- You carry resurrection life

Jesus said:

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10, NIV)

This is **Zoe life** — the very life of God.

✓ 1.6 Future Resurrection

But there is also a **future reality**:

- Your body will be raised
- Death is not the end

Hebrews 9:27 says:

“Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,” (Hebrews 9:27, NIV)

And for believers:

“We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 5:8, NIV)

And one day:

“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.” (Philippians 3:20–21, NIV)



TRANSITION

So resurrection answers this question:

👉 **“Who am I now?”**

And the answer is:

You are alive in Christ.

But now we must ask:

👉 **What will you do with that life?** Not as a threat, but as an invitation: how might God be calling you to live more fully awake to Him?

That brings us to the second foundation...



2. ETERNAL JUDGMENT (10 MIN)



2.1 Judgment is Certain

The Bible says:

“Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,” (Hebrews 9:27, NIV)

Every person:

- Every believer
- Every unbeliever

Will stand before God. That is a weighty truth — but for the believer, it is not meant to drive us from Him. It is meant to draw us into honesty, readiness, and hope.



2.2 Who Judges?

Scripture shows us:

- **God the Father**
- **Jesus Christ**
- **The Word of God**

Jesus said:

“Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted 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.” (John 5:22–23, NIV)

✓ 2.3 How Will God Judge?

The Bible says:

👉 According to truth:

“Now we know that God’s judgment against those who do such things is based on truth.” (Romans 2:2, NIV)

👉 According to deeds:

“God ‘will repay each person according to what they have done.’ To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.” (Romans 2:6–7, NIV)

👉 According to motives:

“Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.” (1 Corinthians 4:5, NIV)

God sees:

- What you did
- Why you did it

Nothing is hidden.

✓ 2.4 Two Different Judgements

Here is where we must be very clear theologically:

There are **two different outcomes**.

◆ A. For the Believer

The Bible says:

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.” (2 Corinthians 5:10, NIV)

This is NOT about condemnation.

👉 This is about **reward**.

“If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.” (1 Corinthians 3:12–15, NIV)

You will be evaluated for:

- Faithfulness
- Obedience
- Stewardship

👉 Important truth:

You are not judged for your sin — but your life still counts. So this is not a call to fear; it is a call to faithfulness. The Lord who saved you is also shaping you, and nothing done for Him is

wasted.

◆ B. For the Unbeliever

The Bible says:

“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened... The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books... Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:11–15, NIV)

And:

If their name is not in the book of life — eternal separation follows. That is why this message matters so deeply: God is not casual about eternity, and neither should we be. Yet even this warning is a mercy, because it urges us to come to Christ while there is still time.

✓ 2.5 The Key Difference

Let me simplify it clearly:

Believer	Unbeliever
Spiritually raised now	Spiritually dead
Goes to be with the Lord	Faces separation
Judged for reward	Judged for destination
No condemnation in Christ	Judgment determines eternity

And here is the sobering truth:

Everyone will be resurrected — but not everyone to the same destination.

◆ 3. BRINGING IT TOGETHER (5 MIN)

Now bring both foundations together.

🔥 Truth #1

👉 You are alive — so live like it. Not to earn life, but because life has been given to you in Christ.

Dead → now alive

Bound → now free

🔥 Truth #2

👉 Your life matters — so live intentionally. Not with anxiety, but with purpose, knowing that what is done in Christ carries eternal weight.

“So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.” (Romans 14:12, NIV)

Every word.

Every action.

Every decision matters.

🔥 Truth #3

👉 Eternity is real — so live focused

This life is temporary — eternity is forever

▼ CONCLUSION (STRONG CLOSE)

Let me end with this:

“The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is living in you.”

And one day...

👉 You will stand before Him.

So remember this:

Alive now. Accountable then.

You were:

- Dead → now alive
- Lost → now restored
- Bound → now empowered

So the question is not meant to shame you, but to awaken you:

👉 **Are you living like you're alive?**

👉 **Are you living ready to stand before God?**