

JESUS' CONDITIONAL TWO-FOLD PROMISE

(John 6:35-40)

Note: “Everyone who sees the Son & believes in Him may have everlasting life; & I will raise him up at the last day.”

The promises Jesus made in verse 40 have two conditions: seeing the Son & believing in Him; no one would question that point.

Why then do people doubt the conditions for salvation that Jesus stated in Mark 16:16: “he who believes & is baptized shall be saved”—the sentence construction is the same in both passages.

But the purpose of our study this morning is to see how the Lord’s conditional promise may apply to us.

Jesus stated two conditions of His two-fold promise, & the 1st condition is that we must “see the Son.”]

I. “EVERYONE WHO SEES THE SON”

A. **Is that condition** even possible for us to meet?

1. Have any of us actually seen Jesus with our eyes?
2. Later in John 20, Jesus actually pronounced a blessing upon those who would never see Him yet believe in Him (Jn 20:25-31).
3. Obviously then the seeing of John 6 & the seeing of John 20 have different meanings.

B. **Can you & I “see the Son”,** & share in the promise Jesus made in John 6?

Heb 12:1-3 – Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, & the sin which so easily ensnares us, & let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 **looking unto Jesus**, the author [chief leader] & finisher [completer, consummator] of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, & has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For **consider Him** who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary & discouraged in your souls.

We can “see the Son” today in several ways:

1. ...by “looking unto Jesus” as the only one qualified to lead us through life & to show us what to believe & who to put our trust in.
2. ...by “considering” what He had to endure from sinners to do His Father’s will – as an example for us.

Heb 2:9 – But **we see Jesus**, who was made a little lower than the angels [implying his previous authority in heaven, vs. 5], for the suffering of death crowned with glory & honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

3. ...by thinking about His nature & authority as God, & by remembering what He came to do.

John 12:20-26 – Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. 21 Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, & asked him, saying, **“Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”** 22 Philip came & told Andrew, & in turn Andrew & Philip told Jesus. 23 **But Jesus answered them, saying,** “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. 24 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground & dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. 25 He who loves his life will lose it, & he who **hates his life** in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 If anyone **serves Me**, let him **follow Me**; & where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

4. ...by learning to “hate” life in such a way that we are able to “follow” & “serve” the Son.

[So these are several ways that we must “see the Son” before we can receive His promise of everlasting life.

The 2nd condition in the promise Jesus made in John 6 is that we must “believe in Him.”]

II. “AND BELIEVES IN HIM”

- A. **Today, many believe** that eternal life is the result of only their faith, or their beliefs about God & Christ.

1. This idea grew out of a religious culture where too much emphasis was placed on works.
2. Martin Luther, a German Roman Catholic monk, lived at a time when Catholicism emphasized works (traditions) almost to the exclusion of faith.

3. In his day, a man named Tezel traveled around Europe, with the authority of the Vatican, selling certificates granting the forgiveness of sins (past, present & future) to the purchaser in order to fund building projects.
4. In those days it was even believed that one could be forcibly sprinkled (which they called “baptism”) & still be saved.
5. In such an environment we can understand why many people went to the other extreme & said, “Salvation is by faith only!”

B. Today, passages like Ephesians 2:8; Titus 3:5 are used to defend “faith only” salvation.

1. The problem with that idea is that Scripture defines “faith” as a work.

John 6:28-29 – Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” 29 Jesus answered & said to them, **“This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”**

1 Thess 1:2-3 – We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, 3 remembering without ceasing your **work of faith**, labor of love, & patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God & Father

2. Many works must accompany our faith if we are to receive the promise Jesus made in John 6:40.
 - a. “Confession” is made “unto salvation” (Rom 10:10).
 - b. “Repentance” is granted by God as leading one “to life” (Acts 11:18).
 - c. “Baptism” is obeyed in order to “be saved” (Mark 16:16).
 - d. To partake of Christ, we must “hold... our confidence steadfast to the end” (Heb 3:14) – be faithful unto death.

[The only passage in all of Scripture that uses the phrase “faith only” states emphatically that we are NOT saved by faith only. **James** said, “You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only” (Jas 2:24).

Now when the conditions are met – seeing the Son & believing in Him – the following promises will apply.]

III. “MAY HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE”

A. **But even while** making the promise Jesus indicated the need to meet conditions by saying that one who sees & believes “MAY HAVE” everlasting life.

The phrase “**may have**”, in grammatical terms, is in the **subjunctive mood**.

“The subjunctive mood is the mood of mild contingency; **the mood of probability**.”

“While the indicative assumes reality, the subjunctive assumes unreality.”

The subjunctive mood “is the first step away from what is actual in the direction of what is only conceivable, and, therefore, properly leads the list of potential moods” (Dana & Mantley Manual of Grammar Greek NT, p. 170).

1. When we are told that something “may” occur, we understand that it will occur when certain factors come together – *if you are listed in someone’s will, then you may inherit something from that person if you outlive him.*

2. Jesus is saying that one may “see the Son” (many people did see Him), & one may even “believe in Him” (many believed in Him) – but he may not have eternal life.

3. Now Jesus didn’t state His promise this way to deflate our hope, He stated His promise this way to remind us that we must continue to “see the Son” & “believe in Him”.

1 John 5:11-13 – And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, & this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, & that you may **continue to believe** in the name of the Son of God.

Acts 10:34-35 – Then Peter opened his mouth & said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. 35 But in every nation **whoever fears Him & works righteousness is accepted by Him.**”

[**The** condition of eternal life is that we continue to live our lives in obedient faith in Christ.

Finally, there is a continuation of His promise of everlasting life...]

IV. “AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY”

A. **All who have ever lived** will be raised from the dead (**John 5:25; Acts 24:15**), but Jesus speaks here of the resurrection unto life with God.

1. This “raising up” is indicative of one whom Jesus has accepted.

B. **Jesus said** there will be a “Last Day.”

1. Time & the earth will one day cease to be.
2. The end will not come by “global warning”, nuclear war or a meteor shower.
3. Time will end when Jesus Christ returns, & after that, the judgment (**Heb 9:27-28**).

CLOSING

Have you seen the Son (in the ways we have studied this morning)?

Do you believe in Him (by continuously trusting & obeying Him)?

Have you met the conditions for receiving everlasting life?

Make this the day you can say “Yes, Lord, I see & believe in You.”