

**THE LIVING MUST DIE**  
**THE DEAD BE MADE ALIVE**

**TEXT:**

**Colossians 3:3:** *For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*

**Ephesians 2:1:** *And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*

God's Holy Word is a mystery and an unsolvable puzzle to the natural man. It is also confusing to the carnal Christian. This is especially true when it deals with the subject of life and death. **Living men must die; and dead men shall be made alive.**

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**John 12:24a:** (Jesus said)  
*Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone:*

Among Bible mysteries, this is one mystery God wants to reveal to our hearts by the Spirit of Truth to those who have ears to hear – let them hear.

The Bible says:

**Ezekiel 18:4:** *Behold, all souls are Mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is Mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.*

**Genesis 2:17:** (The Lord God speaking to Adam in the Garden of Eden)  
*But of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

**James 5:19-20:**

<sup>19</sup> *Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;*

<sup>20</sup> *Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.*

Living in death — the Word of God tells us that this is what Adam chose to do when he disobeyed the Word of God. This death in Adam was not temporal, nor of the body. This is plain to see because he lived about 900 years afterward. God would be made a liar if this were so.



The God who cannot lie spoke of the consequences of disobedience. Adam died in another way. This is evident to all who read the consequences of his disobedience. The Word of the Lord cannot be broken.

***Genesis 2:17b: For in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.***

**The body dies when it is separated from the soul; the soul dies when it is separated from God.**

Accordingly, he did die. He died to God — the most dreadful of deaths.

He lost the life of God. He was separated from Him who is the Giver and Author of life. The body dies when it is separated from the soul; the soul dies when it is separated from God.

Adam gave immediate proof of this death, showing by his behavior that the love of God was extinguished in his soul. He was now alienated from the life of God.

He retained so little of the knowledge of God that he tried to hide himself from Him who fills the Heaven and the earth. He took on a new image. He lost the image of God, and the image of the devil began to manifest itself. Adam was beginning to manifest the image of pride, self-will, lying, and excuse-making.



**The foundational truth of the Bible then is: All are dead because of trespasses and sins:**

***Romans 3:23: For all have sinned, and come short of the Glory of God;***

This is also the foundation of the Gospel — the New Birth. Because we have been born in sin, we must be born again; so everyone born of woman must be born of the Spirit of the Living God.

We have the picture of death in:

***Ephesians 4:18: Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:***

This is the picture of death of the natural man born in sin. Not only so, but Jesus tells us in:

***John 3:6: That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.***

***Mark 7:21a: For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts,***

We do not have to live a long time and delve into sin in order to have these things come into our lives. They are already there — the Word of God tells us.

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A pastor once announced a funeral service to be on Sunday morning and made a special plea that everyone come for sure to view the remains. The casket was placed at the front, and after the service the members were invited to come to view it. To their surprise, there was a mirror in the casket — which shocked them nearly to death!



The sight of a dead body brings an awful feeling to any of us who have had to view it, especially the loss of our loved ones. The truth is — you are dying by degrees while we are here in this meeting. Every breath we breathe is just one less remaining. Every hour passing, and each day coming to its close, brings us closer to death. Our mortal

bodies shall become a carnival of worms. In and out of the places where eyes once glistened, foul things shall be drawn. Death is a loathsome villain that rends to pieces that fair thing we have petted and cuddled for all we thought it was worth. Our bodies must die.

But that is not the worst or ugliest thought. Your soul, if not saved and born-again, is dead in trespasses and sins. That is the worst deal. Many try to decorate the dead body with flowers, yet inside, corruption is setting in. So it is with our lives the longer we live without Christ and His salvation.

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The picture of a corpse is the gruesome figure God chose to set forth to show the condition of your soul and mind. As the body of the dead is incapable of moving, seeing, hearing, smelling, and feeling, and will soon be corrupt and putrid, so the unquickened soul — by nature a loathsome child of wrath — will soon show signs of death.

Reformation and church-joining doesn't make dead people live. The dead cannot raise themselves. It must be the power of God alone.

***Ephesians 2:5: Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by His Grace ye are saved;)***

In the Word of God, Our Lord raised up three bodies of those who had been dead:

The **first** was a young maiden, the daughter of Jarius. She had just laid down in death and was raised in an instant by the single utterance of Jesus.

The **second** was the widow's son. He was in his bier, being carried to his tomb. Jesus raised him to life by saying,

***Luke 7:14b: Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.***

The **third** — the most remarkable and memorable — was that of Lazarus. He was not on his deathbed, or in his bier, but in his tomb.

***John 11:39: Jesus said, "Take ye away the stone." Martha, the sister of him that was dead,***



***saith unto Him, "Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days."***

(Every holiness saint of God is compelled to say the same when near those who have filthy habits - who drink, use pipes, cigars, and cigarettes – **behold, he stinketh.**)

**These three cases of death are three cases of sinners.**

- **First of all, they were all dead -- regardless to the degree of time expired.**
- **Next, different means were used to raise them, although the same Jesus is the only one to do the work.**

Let us look at the difference of these experiences.

**Jarius' daughter dead on her bed**, though just recently passing away. She looks as if she were still alive. Her mother has scarcely ceased to kiss her cheek. But life has departed from her body. She is thoroughly dead.

**Then in the case of the young man**, he is more than dead – he has already begun to corrupt. The signs of decay are on his face as they carry him to the tomb. He manifests death more than the first case.

**The third case goes further still. Lazarus has been dead four days.**

Some of you reading this are fair to look upon as far as outward appearance is concerned. You are moral, upright in business dealings, and religiously inclined. But you have never been born-again. Spiritually, you are dead.



Just like the daughter of Jarius mentioned earlier that had just died, you show little signs of death as yet, just as a lily, freshly cut off the stem, still shows signs of life. Some of you here tonight look good. You have all a heart could wish for — except

for one thing — you have not the Spirit of Christ within. I grieve to say it, but you are dead, a corpse.

Then there are those here who are, in type, like the young man who was being carried to his tomb, already showing signs of physical decay. You have grown in years and have just begun to indulge in evil habits. You have not yet become a desperate sinner, a confirmed smoker, a drunkard, an adulterer, a thief, a liar or a lover of rotten pleasures of the world. You have not become a blasphemer or a curser, and you are still accepted in society. But you are dead, as in the case of the young man in the bier [*a wooden frame on which the dead were laid*].



The third, and most totally putrid, rotten, and vile in thought, word, and deed — Your unlawful deeds cry out against you. Your conscience is seared with a hot iron and you love sin as a hog loves slop. When the stone is taken away from the covering of your life, people will have nothing to do with you. They will put you away from their company. Your children and your wife or husband can't stand you any longer. You have become the offscouring of the earth. You are dead in trespasses and sins — just like the other two, but the outward signs are more disgusting.

In each case, Jesus must quicken you, or you will go to Hell forever.

***John 3:36: He that believeth on the Son hath Everlasting Life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.***

Notice the maiden that we first discussed. Death was confined to her chamber, which is a type of sins kept secret as yet. This is the sin you keep to yourself. Perhaps in your heart you still plan to paint the town red! The girl appears all right; looks alive — but inwardly are full of dead man's bones. Many like this go to places of worship. But you want the worship quiet and restful, because you are dead. At heart you are a sinner, though outwardly acceptable in the eyes of the world.

***Matthew 23:28: Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.***

The young man being carried away shows how sin can be more conspicuous to society, but not entirely gone bad. You are being led downward. Sin is becoming sweet. You don't see anything wrong with many of the things the Bible condemns. Sin is beginning to intoxicate your soul, and you are more brazen than the first type of sinner represented by the maiden who had just died in her chamber. Your sins are no longer hidden, but have become more evident to those around you.

The third case — Lazarus in the tomb — is the saddest. A life wrecked and ruined by sin. Even Jesus stands and weeps as He cries out to awaken you.



## THE QUICKENING

- A.** The *young maiden* was in bed. In **Mark 5** Jesus must come to her. He took her by the hand and said in a soft voice,

***Mark 5:41b: Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.***

This is the usual way He comes to those who have not known the depths of satan. The quickening is real divine life and salvation for the soul. It is brought about without the thunderings of the law and the threats of judgment.

Like Lydia, whose heart the Lord opened, and she believed on Him.

As among children, conversion is just as sweet and real, and the life is changed as in the case of the confirmed sinner; but it may be as the breath of the summer's soft gentle breeze.

- B.** Christ did not come to the *young man* this way. He stopped the funeral procession, and in a louder voice said,

***Luke 7:14b: Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.***

This is a type of salvation in a public meeting, as the crowd saw the change come to him. Sin had hardened and deafened him from the Voice of God, and it must come more loudly, or else there is no stopping place.

- C. The third case — Lazarus, now in the tomb — is the worst, for we notice that Jesus must make special preparation for the raising of this dead one.

Jesus wept, groaned, and gave orders to take away the stone. Then Jesus prayed a special prayer to His Father:

***John 11:42a: And I know that Thou hearest Me always***

Then — something not mentioned in the other two cases —

***John 11:43b: He [Jesus] cried with a loud Voice, “Lazarus, come forth.”***



**In each instance, there were Divine Blessings and Provisions:**

1. Give the young girl meat.
2. Give the young man to his mother. (A type of the church whose travelling brings forth children.)
3. Loose him (Lazarus) and let him go.

In all cases, they were quickened by Jesus. Salvation is of divine origin.

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***Ephesians 2:1: And you hath He quickened [made alive], who were dead in trespasses and sins;***

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