



Dying To Live

Colossians 2:13; 3:1-14

Friday, good Friday, I spoke on **Colossians 2:13** – It speaks to when a person is “*dead in their sins*”. “*Dead in your sins*” means that you are separated from God. To be estranged from your Creator/God is to be separated from the Source, the Source of all life! For a created, living creature, such as you or I, to be separated from the Source, that is a serious situation indeed! The Creator has put into each of us a great desire to live and not die. But if we are not connected to Him as we should be, that is not living at all! Sure, if He is excluded from your life, you can do as you please without Divine interference, but that is the same as living in death! ***C.S. Lewis** – “*It would seem that the Lord finds our desires not too strong but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us - like an ignorant child that wants to go on making mud pies in a slum, because he cannot comprehend what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea(shore). We are far too easily pleased.*”



It is not just settling for living a lesser life on this side of the veil between earth and heaven, but on a far more serious level, it means being headed toward a future the Bible describes as “*the second death*”! This is the perpetual state of anguish that our eternal soul will have to bear as a terrible reckoning for our life of independence from our Creator while on earth! God has deemed this the worst crime in the universe! We don’t seem to think it is so because it is so very common! But there is no greater offense to God than for His creatures to reject His claims of ownership upon our lives and to spurn His entreaties of love! And so the reckoning/punishment for it is also by far the worst!



That is why we needed a Savior to die for us. He paid the penalty for human sin/offenses to God in His own body and with forfeiting His own life! The Good News of the gospel is that the Son of God can offer salvation free and clear to anyone who will believe and “receive” Him.



*If you have ever owed someone money, you know how good it feels to finally have that bill of sale paid for in full. Then you know it is finally all yours because you have finally paid the total the purchase price. That’s a great feeling! Likewise, because of His payment for sin upon the cross, it is as if Jesus offers to give individuals the bill of sale marked “Paid In Full”. If we will put our faith and trust in Him, put away our skepticism, and ask Him for His salvation, He will give it. We are immediately placed “in Him” in the mind and heart of God. That is the place to be, my friends – contained in Him!

To be in Him is to share in the perfection of His achievements, His chosenness, His glory! We get it all from Him, qualifying us to live with God in His heaven!

The War of Realms - [Rev.

20]

A Dire End - The Second Death and the Sea of Fire!

An angel then descended down – as grave as a mortician
He carries a great key and chain – for he was on a mission
He seized the dragon who is Satan – and bound him with the chain
And cast him into the abyss – where he will be retained

The angel deftly locks and seals – the cover of the hole
And there never will be escape, – one thousand years to go!
And for one millennium – that voice will not be heard
The nations will not be deceived – their morals never blurred

A thousand years without that snake – oh think of it, my friend!
That happy day, just contemplate – the joy that will attend!
The nations will be under Him – that has authority
And wars will cease, Oh God be praised – for peace is God's decree

And then,,, for reasons still unknown – after the course of time
The Devil is *un*quarantined - to then resume his crimes
Why this should be we cannot know – for-we **do** not know the rules
And if we try to figure it – we'll only look like fools

But in this war of realms we know – that there are codes of war
And somehow God abides by them – but we don't know what for
We know He knows what He's about – of this we can be sure
So don't be fooled and don't you doubt – for He is good and pure

It is His character at stake – and so it must go on
Just one more round and than it's through – the final victory won!
And that's when things will really change – for better, not for worse
The Lord will rid the world of both - the devil, and the curse!

So when the thousand years have passed – then Satan is released,
Much to the **distress** of the saints – who've been the earth's police
But out he goes to spin and weave - his tale to the four corners

From Gog to Magog he'll engorge – the globe with wretched mourners

He then contacts the kings and queens – of all the earthly hordes
Into their poor demented heads – spills lies about the Lord
It's what he's always done with skill – and where there's war no more
He'll gather nations to make war – like sands upon the shore

They march across the globe to *return* – darkness to the planet
For evidently this desire – has built, enough to damn it!
Forgetting to just stop and think – in-the midst of all their haste
They will surround Jerusalem – to crush and lay it waste

But men have *always* been seduced – like moths into the flame
It is our nature to be scorched – and then to shift the blame
But this time won't be as before – for this is NOT a drill!
It's-the end of all things as they're known – the planet's poison pill!

As-the mob of nations circle round – the camp of God's elect
The intention is to slaughter them; – with *no* sign of respect!
These enemies of God are fools – for they have *never* learned
So-the end of them is holy fire – thrown down 'till earth is burned

The instigator of the fall – is captured one last time
And this is when he finally pays – for all his terrible crimes
He's thrown into Hell's Sea of Fire – and this is when it ends
He's there in torment *eternal* - with all His slimy friends

Day and night, and night and day – for all eternity
Just think of it my friend and you – will see that it must be
This is a just and fitting end – for such a fiend as this
For it is justice from on high – and nothing is amiss!

The immensity of all his crimes – is far beyond the scope
For he has ground the bones of men – and ended any hope
Redemptive traits were never there – He's fathered only fools
Deceiving and aborting souls – by making them his tools

And now for a hard word indeed – it's not just Satan's end!
Judgment day has come for all – that did with God contend!
It's called "The Great White Throne of God" – and seated there is He

Who died to save the souls of men – and set the captive free

The earth and sky flee from this scene – but there's no place to hide
For there the dead of earth are summoned – and sentencing is nigh
And then the seer saw the books – of hea'vn opened wide
And there inside the acts men – and justice will collide!

While-the dead wait there before the throne – to drink their bitter cup
Another massive book is hauled, – unsealed, and opened up
And there upon its great cover – the “***Book of Life***” it said.
And so, according to their works - the Lord will judge these dead!

These were the dead the sea gave up – and death and Hades too
Until the room was massed with men – a terrifying view
These were those that had dismissed – the cross of Jesus Christ!
So sin remained a debt unpaid – and-they cannot pay that price!

So there it weighs on their own heads – and all that yet remains
Is for sentencing and placement – for it's what the book contains
And anyone whose name is not – found in the mammoth book
Is headed for the second death – with no one overlooked!

And these, the second-deathers were – thrown in the Sea of Fire
Where Satan and his friend await – in this their funeral pyre,
Where they are scorched but not consumed – their cries and curses heard
Only by the other damned – for heaven is not stirred!

We cannot understand such pain – without a shred of grace
It's hard to even comprehend – heav'n's joy is not debased
But think of how on earth just now – how children suffer so
We're mercifully unaware – as with our own shadow

We know it's there but out of mind – for we're incapable
Of comprehending all the pain – our mind's already full!
So we will live in peace up there, – no consciousness of hell
Again, it's there, but by God's grace – in heav'n our thoughts will dwell!

So it is that we will know – from God, that this must be,
For when God speaks He must be heard – or face the fiery sea!
The choice is real, so don't be slow – to heed His call right now!

He's suffers those that come to Him – and pledge their solemn vow!

3:1 - Now this is really cool part, especially on Resurrection Sunday! If we are by faith “*in Christ*”, then we are also risen from the dead with Him! That is what it says here! It is as if we were *with Him* in that moment of unlimited power and energy when He rose from the dead! **Vs. 3** says we “*died*” and the inference is that we died with Jesus when He died. We who were once “*dead in our sins*” **died** to being dead in our sins – died to our immersion in that old way of life! The old self was put to death by sharing in Christ’s crucifixion, and then we were risen with Him and brought into a new and much different life – life “*in Christ*” and life with Him! We were not just raised with Him from the dead but also raised and carried in Him *all the way to the throne of God* where Christ is now seated at the right hand of God [**vs. 3**]



[Eph. 2:6]

That is really quite fascinating! Think of it - to be in the mind and heart of God in the heavenly realms, in attendance at the very throne of God because that is where that great repository of souls is - Jesus, and where He is, there we are too! We are an inseparable part of Him! When we join with Him in faith we are chosen with Him – and He was chosen, (says **1 Pet. 1:20**), before creation. We were not chosen then, of course, but *He* was! But we become partakers of that very chosenness when we hear the Gospel, believe in Jesus, and are sealed by the Holy Spirit! That's what **Eph. 1:13** very clearly says!

What I'm saying is that we are completely joined with Christ from the beginning to the end! That is how thoroughly God has connected Himself with His people!





Now it is *our* responsibility to become what God has already made us! “*Set your hearts on things above*” where you already are - in Christ! Your position in Christ is premium! So get your priorities straight! Figure out what is actually important in life.

Priorities are driven by values, so I guess our values need an overhaul first! Jesus is always #1! To value Him most means He needs to be shifted to the top of the list of our priorities! Find out how God can use you! Employ your gifts, talents, resources in the work of God through working to reach your part of the world for Jesus. This is best achieved by working in and through your church! This is dying to self and being raised IN CHRIST to live in newness of life! This begins with determining to make your life count, to do something that will outlive your life here, that will lend real significance to your existence!

Vs. 5 – “Put to death, therefore,..” sin! Because of these the wrath of God is coming”

-[Vv. 5-11] – cleaning up the signs of death

-[Vs. 12 – 17] - The look and feel of resurrection life!

