

Dead and Buried

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 5

Chapter 1 7

BAPTIZED UNTO LIFE

Chapter 2 11

BURYING THE PAST

Chapter 3 14

LIVING IN RESURRECTION POWER

Chapter 4 18

LIVING WITH A PURPOSE

CONCLUSION 24

INTRODUCTION

“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:11).

One of the major problems in Christianity is the refusal to accept our historical death and burial with Jesus Christ. Consequently, we are unable to experience the impartation of resurrection life. In my forty-some years of preaching, I have discovered that the average husband and the average wife do not want to hear anything about burial because a person has to die before they get buried! Often, these marriages crystallize into one long battle over things they should have died to years before.

Reckon in Romans 6:11 is an accounting term, meaning that we are to ‘calculate’ ourselves as being dead to this world. Our reckoning must be based upon absolute truth, historical fact, and present reality. “Whatsoever is not of faith is sin”

(Romans 14:23). In order for our lives to be experientially accurate in Christ, we must recognize the historical accuracy of our death and burial with Him. We are to yield our bodies to God, allowing ourselves to become instruments of His righteousness.

Chapter One
BAPTIZED UNTO LIFE

“For by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews and Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:13).

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified

with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" (Romans 6:1-6).

The operational meaning of baptism has been widely misunderstood in Christian circles. Many churches teach the right things about baptism. They teach that it represents our death and burial with Jesus Christ. Though there are no particular problems in terms of theological understanding, many pastors and congregations alike still do not experience the practicality of baptism.

At the point of salvation, every Christian receives the 'one baptism'—each one is baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13). Water baptism, which follows a person's salvation, is a witness to Jesus Christ's historical death, burial, and resurrection. In essence, the believer who receives water baptism is saying, "I am burying everything concerning my old life, or, Adam's nature. Everything Adam *was* and everything he *did* has been condemned and crucified forever.

When a believer comes up from the water, he is saying that *only* that which comes from resurrection can enter into him now. How his parents treated him is no longer an issue. Marital

difficulties don't enter into the picture, because everything about the Christian's old life was dealt with through the death and burial of the Savior two thousand years ago.

Dealing with Adam

God cannot stand to look upon sin because His eyes are holy (Habakkuk 1:13). Because He loves righteousness and hates iniquity, God cannot accept a single thing from Adam. If Adam was guilty of even the smallest offense, then God could have nothing to do with mankind.

Adam's execution has already taken place. Judgment was passed and he was found guilty, condemned to die with Christ at Calvary. Historically, Christ took everything about Adam upon Himself, both individually and corporately. On the cross, Adam was condemned and crucified in Christ's flesh (Romans 8:3). Then he was buried with Christ. The beauty of this is that Adam's death in Christ qualifies us for resurrection.

Nothing about the old creation can ever enter into the new creation. Everything about Adam has been taken out of the way once and for all. All of his weaknesses, symptoms, sins, and iniquities were transferred to the Son.

Resurrection life has been imparted to the spirit, soul, and body of the believer, bringing in the new creation. The old creation has been left behind, with all of the complaining, bickering, bitterness, and mourning of Adam. I'm not talking about mourning over the loss of a loved one; there is a season for that. But resurrection life will not allow me to mourn over growing old or not feeling well. When I am filled with resurrection life, circumstances cannot touch my inner man, nor can negative feelings enter in to trouble me. I will only receive what Christ initiates.

Chapter Two
BURYING THE PAST

“...[Jesus] saith unto them, our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus said unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead” (John 11:11-14).

A sick man goes to the hospital, but a dead man goes to the grave. The dead man is taken to the funeral parlor, where his body is embalmed. Then, he is taken to the cemetery and buried. Jesus told the disciples plainly, “Lazarus isn’t in the tomb because he is sick or sleeping—he’s there because he’s dead.”

“Give me a possession of a buryingplace ...that I may bury my dead out of my sight” (Genesis 23:4*b*).

When we were buried with Christ by baptism into His death, our past in Adam was buried forever. Whatever has been buried is out

of sight, so we can no longer dwell on it.

Dying Comes First

Whatever has gone into the grave should be left there. But, of course, a person has to die before he can be buried.

I am reminded of an affluent woman, quite deranged in her thinking, who wouldn't let her dead husband be buried. She had his body embalmed, kept him in the house, and talked to him every day. He was dead, but she wouldn't bury him. She just went on making believe he was still alive.

Many Christians cannot bury the past because they haven't died to it yet. The majority of counseling sessions are over things people refuse to die to.

Some people try to die by having themselves buried. They live in self-denial. Burial, however, is not a *means* of death, but the *result* of death. You cannot bury someone who's still alive.

That's why many believers try to resuscitate the past. Certain areas in their lives have never been reckoned as dead, so they continue on as weak, ineffective believers, playing their games with heaven.

When a believer enters into the historical

death of Jesus Christ, the past is finally buried. Christ would never bring us into His death without also bringing us into His burial. Burial always follows crucifixion. We don't need to strive to be buried; Jesus did it all.

In John 8:32, Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Few Christians want this kind of life today. It seems too simple. They would rather continue in the way they are going, experiencing only moments of rebound and moments of being filled with the Holy Spirit, but never on a consistent basis. These people are not Bible believers. In some cases, they need more than counseling—they need salvation.

Chapter Three

LIVING IN
RESURRECTION POWER

Many Christians do not understand the proper application of positional truth. I must insist that I am historically dead, historically buried, and experientially alive unto God through the resurrection of Christ.

In counseling, I am careful to be patient, loving, kind, and gracious. I give everyone an opportunity to communicate thoroughly. Ultimately, though, it all comes down to this: Has resurrection life quickened you for this very hour?

When a Christian is filled with resurrection power, not a single thing from the old life affects him. His priorities are in Christ. Jesus is exalted: He is everything to the believer and He adds all things unto the one who seeks first God's Kingdom (Matthew 6:33).

Union with Christ

When I put sugar in my coffee this morning, I noticed that the sugar couldn't be seen after it dissolved into the coffee. It blended in so completely that it wasn't visible. The sugar entered into a union with the coffee. They were no longer separate, but one.

In the same way, we are in union with Christ's death and burial. Everything about my life was crucified and buried with Him. Everything my father or my grandfather may have done to me, as well as everything that was passed on to me through genetics, was transferred to Christ at Calvary. All of those things entered into union with His death and burial, out of God's sight forever.

Only the carnal believer ever tries to resuscitate the old life. Only a carnal believer, refusing to accept his co-death and co-burial, will reject greater grace. But when a believer accepts the greater grace that's given to him, resurrection power and love are imparted to the soul. This power and love can now emanate from the Christian's life, reflecting the presence of God's divine character in this wicked world.

Engrafted, Deriving Life from the Vine

An elderly lady was burned in a fire. In an attempt to graft skin from other parts of her body onto the burns, the doctors discovered that the procedure wouldn't work because the woman's skin was too old. However, when they grafted skin from the woman's younger sister, the process worked beautifully.

Branches from weak trees are grafted onto strong trees. A little slip is made for the added branch and it begins to derive life from the healthy tree. In time, the engrafted branch is producing fruit.

Historically, we have been condemned and crucified, in a sense, grafted into his death, burial, and resurrection. Just as Jesus brought us into His death, He also raised us up into the newness of life, where we can now walk as brand-new creations.

God is offering total freedom from Adam. He offers freedom from the negative words you speak about yourself and from the bad things that have been said about you. God can change your personality, alter your moods, and expand your capacity for Him, because all that you *were* was placed upon Christ. All God asks is that you

accept your historical death with Him so you can begin to live in resurrection life.

God can handle any situation if we will allow Him. Resurrection life can be imparted to us. We can have all that is in the New Creation and leave everything else buried with Him.

Chapter Four

LIVING WITH A PURPOSE

“Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked? In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him” (Ecclesiastes 7:13-14).

The reality of our death and burial in Christ is a finished work. Based on this, we can reap all the benefits of eternal life, spiritually, while living in an earthen vessel. When you prosper, rejoice! But ponder this: Alongside of prosperity, God places adversity in the life of the Spirit-filled believer. He does this so we can't figure Him out; instead of becoming familiar, we learn to trust Him by faith.

Destroying the Works of the Devil

“All things have I seen in the days of my

vanity: there is a just man that perisheth in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man that longeth his life in his wickedness" (Ecclesiastes 7:15).

The wicked declare that because they have not been chastised, everything is fine. What they don't realize is that God has given them their portion in this life; but, in terms of eternity, what they *seemed* to have will be gone forever. The world system, or, *cosmos diabolicus*, is ruled by the great deceiver. Lucifer was one of the most beautiful beings created by God, even though he is commonly portrayed as a weird, ugly creature with horns. By his outward attractiveness, he has been able to infiltrate people's lives, stealing innocence and bringing death and destruction (John 10:10).

"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8b). Without the manifestation of Christ's resurrected life, Satan's works could not be destroyed. Today, if I do not see the manifestation of God's resurrected Son, I am helpless, hopeless, and impotent, unable to destroy the works of the devil against me.

As Christians, frail yet trusting in a God we cannot see, we have two things going for us: the

will of God, with all of its provisions, and the work of God, with all of its “adventures.” When we begin to grow, God help us not to live in denial, reaction, or blaming others, but to decrease that Christ may increase (John 3:30).

The Need of Every Heart

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He also has planted eternity in mens hearts and minds [a divinely implanted sense of a purpose working through the ages which nothing under the sun but God alone can satisfy], yet so that men cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end” (Ecclesiastes 3:11 Amplified Translation).

God has placed eternity in every heart—a desire to never die, a desire to live forever. By God’s design, that desire can never be satisfied except by Him. But because of sin, the devil comes along and brings in the fear of death, the fear of disease, the fear of people, the fear of failure, the fear of being found out. As part of his diabolical set-up, he offers drugs, alcohol, and illicit sex to “get rid” of the fears. In reality, Satan has made slaves out of individuals who are now dependent upon the devil’s provision.

The god of this world, trying to be the god

of your need, wants to serve your needs—he wants you to talk about them, magnify them, and remain unfulfilled because of them. As a Christian, you will start expecting people to fulfill your needs, even though the God of heaven is living inside of you. But, God Almighty says, “My grace is sufficient for you,” yet, you’ve never utilized His provision through personal communion and intimacy.

God’s Supply

“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19). Apart from Christ, people may go after religious experiences and false works. Even born-again believers may try to get right with God by performing works of righteousness (Titus3:3-7). Yet, when the eternal life of Christ comes into your heart, that life is always sufficient.

“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8). The work of God brings love, forgiveness, cleansing, hope, healing, kindness, and tenderness. It transforms the mind so that we are understanding, not easily provoked but

easily entreated. The work of God does so much more than merely sustain us; it brings a life that has no limits, happiness that can't be quenched, and joy that flows from eternal fellowship with the Word of God.

The Work of God

Then, what is the work of God? "Then said [the disciples] unto [Jesus], What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that you believe on him whom he hath sent" (John 6:28-29). The work of God is simply believing—truly believing—what He says, what He does, and what He promises. Jesus said, in John 5:17, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work." He was speaking of winning and discipling souls.

We are His workmanship. We have been created in Christ Jesus, unto good works, and ordained to walk in His steps (Ephesians 2:10). The Greek word for workmanship is *poiema*. It speaks of something that is made in a process, such as fabric. First, we are made anew, passing from death unto life. Then we are in a process—from our position to our experience—until Christ is formed in us.

We *are* the work of God and we are in the work of God. When we manifest the Lord and His provision, it destroys the works of the devil: divorce, negativity, anxiety, lust, anger, materialism, unhappiness, the wrong kind of fear. The manifestation of the resurrected Lord in our lives destroys the process of Satan in Adam's prison house.

Consider the work of God—we must not have anything less than this. “For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21).

CONCLUSION

Is it any wonder Paul said, “I have been crucified, buried, and risen with Christ. And because I am risen with Christ, I seek only those things that are above. My life is hid with Christ in God”?

Christ died once, He cannot die again. He was buried once and cannot be buried again. Christ is our life from now on. That’s very simple, isn’t it? His wisdom, His power, His knowledge, and His provision are at work in me.

The Holy Spirit imparts a resurrection force, which brings God’s energy into my life. I bring His energy into my business, my conversations, and my relationships—even to my enemies. As I walk through valleys, His life continues to fill me.

Because we have accepted our death and burial with Jesus Christ, we can truly enjoy His resurrection life.