

INSIGHT

What comes to mind when you here the saying, "The only thing you can be sure of is death and taxes". For most people, they get a feeling of fear and uncertainty. It is true that nobody is excited about paying taxes and most people are very much afraid of death; but thanks be to Christ, we can know the truth about death and the hope that lies behind it. When death is applied to the lower orders of living things such as plants and animals, it means the end of life. However when death is applied to the human life, it does not mean the end of life, but rather a transition from one form of existence to another. Scripture teaches that man is more than a physical creature; he is also a spiritual being. The Bible speaks of death in a twofold way: physical and spiritual. The first physical death of a human recorded in the Bible is that of Abel, who was murdered by his brother Cain (*Gen. 4:8*). However, death itself, in both the physical and spiritual sense, is first mentioned by God Himself (*Gen. 2:17*). In the Genesis account of the Fall, both physical and spiritual death come as a result of sin (*Romans 5:12-21*).

Since all men have sinned and fallen short of God's glory (*Romans 3:23*), everyone is spiritually dead and therefore separated from God who is the source of spiritual life. For this reason, Christ came to unite us unto God; and the goal of Christianity is to become more and more like Christ. When we became Christians, a conscious decision was made to die to self and the world.

Therefore, let us heed the words of this song: *On Sunday mornings, and weekdays too, people observe all you say and do. Let the life you live be a reflection of the man inside.*^{E. Robinson} Let Jesus take charge of your life in all you say, think or do. For those of us who have baptized have been clothed with Christ! (*Gal 3:27*) Amen!

Becoming Like Christ Dying To Self

Key Text: **1 Pet 2:24**

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

Theme:

Becoming a Christian requires a renewing of the mind and death to one's old way of life. Romans 6:4 says "we were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." Yet far too many Christians are allowing their old sinful life control them. As disciples of Christ, we need to die to ourselves daily, and live for Christ.

Application:

Here are some practical suggestions:

1. Set your mind on things above and not on earthly things. Forget about keeping up with the Jones'.
2. Pray to become like Christ.
3. Read through the Gospels focusing on the parables that Jesus taught.
4. In all you do, ask yourself "Am I pleasing the Lord?"

May the Lord richly bless you!

SERMON OUTLINE

Dying to self

I. Death To Sin

- A. Romans 6:1-4
1. We died to sin.
 2. Buried with Christ.
 3. Raised to live a new life.

II. Resurrected Self

- A. Romans 6:5-7
1. United with Christ.
 2. Body of sin is done away.
 3. No longer slave to sin.
 4. Dying to self=Freedom from sin.

III. Our Hope

- A. Romans 6:8-10
1. We will live with Christ.
 2. Christ has the victory over death.
 3. Christ died for all.
 4. Christ lives with God.

IV. 4 Steps To Glory

- A. Romans 6:11-14
1. Count your self.
 2. Do not let sin reign.
 3. Offer yourself to God for righteous deeds.
 4. Be determined to not let sin be your master.

V. Conclusion

- A. Luke 9:23-25
1. Take up your cross daily
 - Self denial, complete dedication.
 - It must be done daily.
 - We must lose our lives for Jesus.

Warm-up:

If you wanted to get your body in shape, what would you have to do? What habits would you have to change?

See To It

Colossians 3:1-17

1. What should we be striving to set our minds on?
2. List 3 reasons why we should set our minds on things above.
3. From verse 9, what does Paul mean when he says *you have taken off your old self*?
4. What must we put to death? Why?
5. Read Phil 3:13-14. Why is "*forgetting what is behind*" such an important factor in a Christian's life?

Seeing It Closer:

Romans 6:1-14

1. How does one die to self?
2. From vs 4, what does baptism represent?
3. What must happen to the body of sin?
4. From vs 13, what does "as instruments of wickedness" mean?
5. How can we offer our *bodies* to God?

Getting To It:

Go around the room and share with one another a struggle in your life that you need to die to and at the end of class have somebody close out in a prayer asking God to help us with these struggles.

SMALL GROUP STUDY