

For Me to live is Christ

Colossians 2:12-14

Colossians 2:12

12

having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through or by means of faith.

Last hour we ended with a look at the study of Faith. Faith must always have an Object and it is the Object of Faith that is an issue. Can the Object of Faith do what you are trusting it to do? Here the object of Faith is stated:

in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

By means of faith Refers to the point of salvation—initial Faith in JESUS CHRIST as Savior; Remember it is by FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST THAT ANYONE IS SAVED. No one can be saved apart from Faith in JESUS CHRIST! In the dispensation of the Gentiles or the dispensation of Israel—Faith in the coming Messiah, who is now identified as Jesus the Christ.

The baptism of the HOLY SPIRIT takes place at the moment you believe in JESUS CHRIST. **faith in the working of God**

The package of Salvation is totally the working of God. The Greek construction is the source of salvation.

having been buried with Him by means of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and by which baptism you have also been raised with Christ by means of faith in the working from the source of God.

Our salvation is from the source of God—He planned it and He sent His Son to this earth to provide Salvation to anyone who will believe in Him.

Who raised Him from the dead...

OK, get ready... I am sorry, but in the Filling of the Holy Spirit you are going to have to think Theologically — this does not say **who raised Him from the dead...** it says who **raised Him from the deaths** That's right. This is a genitive plural of the Greek word *nekros*.

In over 25 translations, I could not find one Bible that translated this in the plural "**deaths**", but any first-year Greek student knows this is in the plural.

So, why not translate it in the plural? Well, we would have to ask each group of translators, but I suspect, for the most part, ***that just would not make sense. Raised Him from the deaths?***

It is ashamed that so few understand the fundamental need of a Savior. Most people think in terms of 'personal sins' when they think of Salvation. Few—very few—think in terms of the need of Perfect Righteousness. But even fewer understand why we sin in the first place, and why we are in need of a Savior.

In simple terms—**Spiritual Death!**

1. We, are each born into this world physically alive but Spiritually dead.

2. We are born spiritually dead from our ancestry to Adam.

3. Adam was created physically and spiritually alive.

Genesis 2:7 **Then the LORD** (YHWH, **emphasizing** His Personality.

The Love and Compassion **God** (Elohim – emphasizes). His divine Essence—His Omnipotence —and His Sovereignty, together here they refer to the Second member of the Godhead. God the Son **formed** as a potter does with a clay **man**. We know that man is made up of three parts.

I Thessalonians 5:23

23

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Body:

Senses conscious; it is the 'tent' that houses the soul and spirit. As a footnote here, the genius of the formation of the body and all its parts and inter-working of the human body, indeed a complex organism that only the Wisdom of God could design and the Power of God bring to life.

Soul:

The immaterial part of man and is the capacity to categorize and understand human phenomenon. Consciousness of relationships with other humans.

The four primary characteristics of the soul are:

- (1) Consciousness or awareness of self Acts 20:10
- (2) Mentality Acts 15:24; Luke 12:19
- (3) Emotion 2 Peter 2:8
- (4) Volition Joshua 24:15

The **Human Spirit** consciousness of a relationship with God; the ability to understand and categorize divine phenomenon—doctrines of the bible; Theology;

Examples: Adam and Eve had fellowship with One Another from their souls and fellowshiped with the Lord from their human spirits.

But as we will see, once they died spiritually they were unable to have fellowship with the Lord, but could continue in their relationship with One Another, even though that relationship was marred.

Genesis 2:7

7 **Then the Lord God JESUS CHRIST formed** the material part of **man of dust from the ground,** existing material **and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;**

OK, this gets into deep yet important Theology—'**breath**' is equivalent to Life

1 Kings 17:17:

Therefore when God breathed into the nostrils of Adam, God was breathing His own life into this lump of clay of the ground and all of a sudden that lump of earth **became of living being.**

This is not said of any of the lesser forms of life; only of mankind. **And breathed into his nostrils the divine breath of life**

However, this is in the plural... **breathed into his nostrils the breath of lives and man became a living being.**

So, we start off the human race with man having a body, soul and human spirit which means not only physical life, and soul life, but also Spiritually Alive.

While the clay is now animated, man is distinct from all the animals on earth in that God divinely breathed divine life into the body—so by the make-up of his soul man is different from all other forms of life on earth. His invisible soul is man-ward while his invisible spirit is Godward.

Therefore, throughout history, the most uncivilized people and the most civilized people have this in common, the knowing of the existence of a supreme being.

And as we have seen from Romans 1 that if man rejects the being of the One True God, he turns and worships in idolatry.

Genesis 2:7

7 **Then the Lord God JESUS CHRIST formed** the material part of **man of dust from the ground,** existing material **and breathed into his nostrils the breath of lives and man** Adam—signifying a member of the human race;

So, God is going to start off the **ANGELIC CONFLICT** with a new species—humanity; He created angels and a third of them rebelled against God so now God is going to create a new species with Spiritual life. He will later create a new race – Jews; then He will create a new species, the body of Christ.

But it all began when **man became a living being or living life** let's take a look at man and woman in the garden before sin,

and by doing this we get an idea of our existence for all eternity. The Soul and the human spirit of man desires fellowship with God as Adam and Eve had in the garden. This fellowship with God was expressed and enjoyed through the body because they saw Him with their eyes and they heard Him with their ears.

So, man enjoyed a relationship, fellowship with God—revealed member being God the Son from his Body, Soul and Spirit. And for all eternity we will enjoy fellowship with JESUS CHRIST in our resurrected bodies.

Observations on the Creation of man-or-woman.

Warren W. Wiersbe

- (1) Designed and created by God. not the highest form or an evolutionary development. Not the result of some galactic explosion. Acts 17:28 **for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'**

We were created in God's image Genesis 1:26

26 **Then God said, "Let Us Trinity make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."**

27 **God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**

Question:

What did God look like when He came to fellowship with Adam and Eve in the cool of the evening? (Genesis 3:8). I believe that He looked just like the man Jesus when He was on earth and again in His resurrected body.

Man lost the impact of being created in the image of God by sin. Ephesians 4:18-19

18 **being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;**

19 **and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.**

Incapable of fellowship with God, until receiving a human spirit, and Indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the Filling of the Holy Spirit. This will be realized in its fullest in our eternal state in our Resurrected Body.

(3) Man was created and given dominion over the earth. Genesis 1:26 and 28. But when man listened to Satan and sinned, he lost dominion and dominion was given to Satan who rules the world now.

So, the first stop on our understanding of the Spiritual life and death begin in Genesis 2:7

7 **Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of lives; and man became a living being** So, man was created with Spiritual life.

But now watch what happens to man's spiritual life.

Genesis 2:17

17 **but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."**

In mss this is Qal infinitive absolute followed by the Qal, imperfect of the same verb meaning to die: should be translated; **dying, you shall surely die**

Over 55 years ago

RB Thieme did a study on the contrast of two trees



1	planted by God in the garden	1	planted by man on a hill
2	Pleasant to the eyes (Genesis 3:6)	2	Repugnant to human eyesight
3	Man forbidden to eat (2:17) Satan enticed man to eat	3	God says to eat of it. Satan tries to stop man eating of it
4	to eat brought sin and death	4	To eat brings Salvation and Eternal Life John 6:53-54
5	Man was turned out of Paradise	5	Man enters to even a Better Paradise
6	Curse	6	Eternal Blessing

In Genesis 2:16-17 We have recorded the proof of volition in man, not predestination by God.

In the garden, in perfect environment man's volition was tested.

Man could sin only by refusing to do what God commanded.

Genesis 2:16

16 **The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;**

17 **but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it dying you will die** that is **dying spiritually the moment you eat of it and you will later die physically**

They could sin in only one way—negative volition Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden tree but they did not die physically, they died spiritually, they lost the ability of fellowship with God and they would later die physically.

Romans teaches that we are all under the sentence of Adam of Spiritual death as in Romans 6:23

23 **For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

In contrast to *eternal life* is **spiritual death**—separated from God for all eternity. The Greek word translated **wages** refers to the recompense of sin: it refers to the harm suffered for sin, the compensation for sin is eternal spiritual death

This brings us to our study in Col. 2:12 referring to the two deaths of JESUS CHRIST. On the cross, JESUS CHRIST died spiritually, paying the debt that we owe, but we could not pay since we are born spiritually dead.

But JESUS CHRIST being born of a virgin impregnated by the Holy Spirit resulting in JESUS CHRIST being born minus a sin nature.

It is amazing how many 'Christians' know that JESUS CHRIST was born of virgin Mary, but have no idea as to why?

Why did He have to be born of a virgin In fact few even know that it is imperative that JESUS CHRIST be both God and man in one person, born of a virgin impregnated by the Holy Spirit. The Inherited Sin Nature is passed down through the male.

Therefore, JESUS CHRIST was born of a virgin so that He would be born into the human race without inheriting an Inherited Sin Nature, therefore born spiritually alive.

Spiritual death of man and of JESUS CHRIST on the cross is not something new. Refer back to our study in Colossians 1:22, where we studied the Biblical teaching on Spiritual Death.

There we did a study on the use of two different Greek words for death and saw in various Greek lexicons discussions on Spiritual death.

One quote necessary to repeat here is from "The Complete Biblical Library" (six vol) in vol. 3, page 69: "Thanatos [Greek word for death] in classical Greek includes 'the act of dying' "It also refers to non-physical death (perhaps spiritual or mental)."

Then on page 70: "The moment Adam defied the commandment of God, he sinned and '**death**' was introduced. This does not mean that he died physically, although this came about later. Instead he was separated from God, though he did not cease to exist.

This spiritual death Adam has passed on to all mankind.

This condition of death is the curse passed on to all mankind. This condition of death is the curse of humanity (Ephesians 2:5), and by nature all men are spiritually dead (cf Ephesians 2:3).

As was true with the first man, all are separated from God by a high and insurmountable wall or fathomless gulf. This separation is the essence of 'death'."

I hope that you can see from this brief discussion how vital, how wonderful it is that by the grace of God that we are **also raised up with Him through or by means of faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the deaths.**

The deaths plural, when JESUS CHRIST rose from the grave after the third day and third night, He rose, physically and spiritually. On the cross, JESUS CHRIST died both spiritually and physically. He died spiritually paying the debt for sin of the entire human race. This is recorded in the words from the cross **it is finished** the debt for the payment of sins was complete. And having paid the debt, with His work complete He died physically:

...having said this He breathed His last Luke 23:46

So I pray that you see the powerful message of Colossians 2:12 **having been buried with Him in baptism,** payment of debt of spiritual death **in which you were also raised up with Him** to spiritual life eternal, and this **by means of faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the deaths** spiritual and physical. (we have just completed a detail study of the Resurrection of JESUS CHRIST in our Wednesday night studies in Gospel of John.

Victory Through the Cross. Verses 13-14

13 **When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,**

14 **having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.**

When you were dead in your transgressions This describes every member of the human race (except for JESUS CHRIST, of course) when we became a member of the human race.

When you slow down here, this personal pronoun refers to you. This is the way you were at one time, **were dead in your transgressions**

When we are born into the human race we are born physically alive!

So how can you say we are dead? this is the same word for being dead as the word used at end of verses 12 speaking of JESUS CHRIST **raised from the deaths** plural, but here singular.

It was used in the plural when referring to the resurrection of JESUS CHRIST –raised from physical and spiritual deaths. But here when referring to us, it is in the singular. Why in the singular? Simple, we are physically alive when we were born but we were born spiritually dead. This is why we were not able to pay for the wages of sin. The wages of sin is spiritual death, but we were already spiritually dead.

When you were dead in your transgressions King James says **sins**.

There are several words for ‘sin’ in the New Testament. This word means to fall by the way; wrong doing. “To fall or deviate from the

Truth”. It refers to intentional sin, which has no excuse — “intended violation of that which is correct’. This word is often used in New Testament in association with forgiveness.

Now, let us look at our immediate context to grasp why the Holy Spirit uses this word.

- 1 We are dead in our transgressions
- 2 We were forgiven of our transgressions in Christ.
- 3 Now, what were the commands, standards that we fell short of? What was the Truth that we violated? We will see the answer in the next verse as being the Mosaic Law.

When you were dead spiritually, we must realize that while we are born physically alive we are born spiritually dead.

in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh We have studied the Doctrine of Circumcision, where we saw that physical circumcision applies only to the males, but here this word **uncircumcision** refers to both sexes, male and females. and this refers to the fact that we are born with Inherited Sin Nature which is why we are born spiritually dead.

When you were dead spiritually dead **in your transgression and the un-circumcision of your flesh** born with Inherited Sin Nature **He made you alive together with Him.**

He God the Father **made you alive** spiritually **together with Him** with JESUS CHRIST. **He made you alive** AORIST TENSE—point in time, this happened to everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST—it is not a process, and God does this, He God, made you alive—This is grace, we do not earn nor deserve this; this is not something you can do in your life over a period of your life...no, this is instantaneous.

This is like what happened to Adam in Genesis 2:7 where God breathed the breath of lives into his nostrils and Adam became a living being. Ok, we are already physically alive, but when we believe in JESUS CHRIST as Savior, God the Father makes us spiritually alive! The AORIST – point in time, once and for all; ACTIVE VOICE— God the Father does this, we do not cannot make ourselves alive and the INDICATIVE MOOD—this is reality. NO, you probably did not feel anything.

This is supernatural! Many Christians know the great passage of Ephesians 2:8-9 but you should also know Ephesians 2:4-7

- 4 **But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,**
- 5 **even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),**
- 6 **and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,**
- 7 **so that in the ages to come for all eternity He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**

People are always asking, what will we do in heaven? Well here is one thing...we will spend all eternity seeing the surpassing riches of His Grace in kindness toward us in Christ.

Colossians 2:13

- 13 **When you were dead in your transgressions** the 'when' refers to our first birth into the human race; we were born physically alive but spiritually dead **and the uncircumcision of your flesh**, possessing an ISN **He** God the Father **made you**

alive spiritually **together with Him**, JESUS CHRIST **having forgiven us all our transgressions**, This is an AORIST PARTICIPLE of a word from the root of Grace, meaning we have been 'dealt with in Grace' —the forgiveness of all our transgressions.

PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE sins. The Action of the AORIST PARTICIPLE (forgiven) precedes the action of the main verb (made you alive. Before He made us spiritually alive He has forgiven us of all our sins.

Think of all that God has done to you and for you in Christ.
— **we are complete in Him**

— **we are circumcised with a circumcision not of hands in the removal of the body of flesh by the circumcision of Christ**

— **our Inherited Sin Nature is dead. And we are in Union with Him**

— **buried with Him and Raised up with Him**

— **forgiven of all our transgressions**

— **made alive in Him**

People, our lives are not our lives, we are here to live for Christ.

Galatians 2:20

20 **"I have been crucified with Christ;
and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;
and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live
by faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up
for me.**

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

14 **For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this,** we should be controlled by the Love of Christ after we have come to some conclusions such as **that one died for all, therefore all died;**

15 **and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf**

*I am not what I ought to be
I am not what I want to be
I am not what I hope to be
But still, I am not what I use to be,
and by the Grace of God I am what I am*

John Newton: Amazing grace

A new creation in Christ.