

Living After Death

Bulletin Article from June 3, 2018 – Rock Messenger.

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In Ephesians 2, Paul writes about once they were dead in their trespasses, but that they've been raised up with Jesus. After being dead, they've been made alive again. The question we want to consider is how do we live after death? We do not want to return to the same place we were before we were made alive. (Once we arose out of the waters of baptism) Once we've been made alive, we want to continue to progress in order to be faithful.

First point we can make is Ephesians 2:2. There, Paul records that beforehand they walked according to the course of the world. People were following along with their own desires, and the desires of others. People walked according to the world, meaning just as those who are apart from God do. In order to live after death, one must change that. No longer is walking with the world acceptable, because that made one dead. If one does not walk according to the world, then how should one walk? The alternative would be according to the will of God.

Second point to make would be from the letter to the church at Sardis. (Revelation 3:1-6). They have a name for being alive, but in reality are dead. They are told to wake up and strengthen what remains. Their deeds have not been completed. They are admonished to remember what they received and heard, to keep it and repent. Growth must play a factor in living as well. By using the word of God, one must grow in it. One must understand the word and not make it recitation. That involves applying it into everyday life.

In order to live after death, one must be involved in studying the Word of God. Also, one must be bearing fruit. That shows someone who is involved. They are working for the Lord and not merely sitting in a pew. Pew potatoes are not living for the Lord if that's all they do for the cause of Christ. Those who are alive, realize that life is a continual building block. Strengthen what you have and continue to grow. If one stops growing, then they start decaying.

Being alive is also seen in how we treat and interact with others. Part of our work is to spread the gospel to every creature. If we are alive in Christ, we take that mission to heart. Are our actions evangelistic? It is more than just asking someone to come and hear the word of God. It is more than just asking if someone wants to study the Bible. Our actions should show that we are a different person. If we present ourselves as a worldly person, no one will want to study the Bible with us. Being evangelistic involves prayer, proper actions, proper words, and proper preparation. Certainly, it involves talking to others about God. In order to be alive, we must resemble an evangelistic idea.

Fourthly, involved in how we treat others is more than just teaching them the word of God. If we want to be alive, then we are to help one another. In Matthew 25:35-36. In this story, Jesus is relating the care of His brothers to a needed work. In order to be alive, we must be active with each other. We need to know others needs in order to help them along the road. Sometimes all we can do is pray, and check in on them, but that is still a needed work. How many opportunities do we have to visit someone? How much time does it take to call and check on a person? How much of a sacrifice does it take to provide a little meal for someone or even to send a card showing you care. We often think caring for someone requires a large sacrifice. Most of the times, it is the little signs of care that mean the most. If we want to be alive in Christ, then we are to be involved with each other, working together, that we all may reach heaven in the end.

Finally, going along with the last point, if we are to be alive then we must encourage one another. Sometimes that means correcting. Look at Priscilla and Aquilla. They took Apollos aside to teach him more rightly. Sometimes in order to grow, we need the assistance of others. By encouraging each other and keeping each other accountable, we are alive in Christ. There's much work to do, and everyone can do different parts. By fulfilling these duties, we live in Christ. **-CW**