

John 11:11ff.
January 24, 1988
Rome Georgia
November 16, 2014

Subject: The death of Lazarus.

Theme: Death brings glory to God through the resurrection of **those who are loved by Him.**

Proposition: What does death hold for you. ***Will it be a continuation of your fellowship with God - or a continuation of your separation from God?***

Open with story (*attached*) – from this weeks Associated Press article on the 91 year old Warsaw woman who woke up in a body bag in the morgue. And last July – a newborn baby

Death Comes

Death comes as an uninvited guest
Well respected by all, but fearsome in his quest.
All too early he arrives at our door
And alters the theme of our party for ever more

Is he foe or is he friend?
This one who comes, our mortal life to end.
Are we freed or are we bound?
When by death's cold fingers we are found.

The question is not settled at the last
when for each man all hope has past.
But in our life we hold the key
to choose a master, and be bound or free.

So "choose this day whom you will serve.
"stay the narrow course", and never swerve.
And welcome death as a respected friend
when the party for you has come to an end.

epw 1/23/88

Read **John 11:1-10 – v. 4** in particular.

Then R e a d **John 11:11-14**

Joh 11:11 These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, **Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.**

11:12 Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.

11:13 Howbeit **Jesus spake of his death**: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

Joh 11:14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, **Lazarus is dead**

MAN WAS ORIGINALLY CREATED TO LIVE FOREVER . . . HOWEVER, SIN ENTERED INTO THE WORLD, AND DEATH BY SIN.

I. THE UNIVERSALITY OF DEATH

Gen. 2:15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

Gen 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;

Gen 2:17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for **in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**"

Romans 5:12 "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and **death by sin**; and **so DEATH PASSED UPON ALL MEN, FOR THAT ALL HAVE SINNED:**

Death has a way of catching us off guard. Whether it is the death of a friend or our own demise, it always seems to overtake us with breathtaking speed . . . We may clog our minds with all the pleasures that this world has to offer, but as regularly as the tick of a fine Swiss watch, men continue to die.

Thomas Paine, a man who considered himself as Agnostic observed "Nothing, they say is more certain than death, and nothing more uncertain than the time of dying."

Scoffers such as **Thomas Paine** and **Francis Voltaire** loudly rebuke all that is holy as they stride through life, only to find that as they face the **ultimate reality of death**, alone and separated from the love of the Father, they rue the day that they mocked the one who came to give them life and to give it to them in abundant measure.

Among the last utterances that fell upon the ears of the attendants of this dying infidel (Thomas Paine), and which have been recorded in history, were the words, 'My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?'"

There are always scoffers in our midst. A few weeks ago, someone was doubting that Jesus ever lived at all, then last week, someone read an old market place tabloid that said Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene and they had two children. I actually saw a picture one time with Bill Clinton strolling in the Rose Garden with a 7' alien – but then, again, I saw a similar picture of an alien walking with Bush 41 and Bush 43, and Ronald Reagan before them.

Whereas we would do well to heed the admonition to not believe everything we see in a newspaper, one thing is for sure – the obituary column will demonstrate daily for us that all men will one day die.

"**Henry Goodear**, a merchant living in London, was very much inclined to **scoff at the Bible** and its teaching. One day his **niece, Mary Goodear**, persuaded him to go to church, "just to please her." **Greatly to her grief the lesson was from the 5th chapter of Genesis.** As the verses were read, she could only shrink back in her place. Why had God allowed such an uninteresting list to be read this day of all others?

Read **Gen . 5:5, 8, 14, 17, 20, 27, 31**

Gen 5:5 So all the days that **Adam** lived were nine hundred and thirty years; **and he died.**

Gen 5:8 So all the days of **Seth** were nine hundred and twelve years; **and he died.**

Gen 5:14 So all the days of **Cainan** were nine hundred and ten years; **and he died.**

Gen 5:17 So all the days of **Mahalalel** were eight hundred and ninety-five years; **and he died**

Gen 5:20 So all the days of **Jared** were nine hundred and sixty-two years; **and he died.**

Gen 5:27 So all the days of **Methuselah** were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; **and he died.**

Gen 5:31 So all the days of **Lamech** were seven hundred and seventy-seven years; **and he died.**

These words stuck with Mr. Goodear, and with each step he took, the tread of his foot seemed to whisper the refrain, “**and he died.**” As he lay trying to sleep that night, **Big Ben**, seemed to echo those words, “**and he died.**” As he tried to work on Monday morning, every scratch of the pen seemed to trace the words, “**and he died.**” Finally, in desperation he left the office, went home, pulled out the old family Bible, and read the chapter, and realized for the first time, **that we all must die . . .** “

John Tillotson Archbishop of Canterbury from 1691 to 1694 “***He who provides for this life, but takes no care for eternity, is wise for a moment, but a fool forever.***”

How hopeless and starless the night of death would be but for the gloom-dispelling words of the triumphant One:

Revelation 1:18 “I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the **keys** of hell and of **death.**” *wbk.*

1Th 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, **concerning them which are asleep**, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

1Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, **even so them also which sleep in Jesus** will God bring with him.

Those who are IN JESUS, are those held in his hand, 10:28, those who are in His hands are those who heard the Good Shepherds call because they are His sheep.

But there is a long standing problem in the land of Israel and the people unto whom Jesus came

Old Testament – As well as in the New Testament.

Psa 81:11 But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me.

Psa 81:12 So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: *and* they **walked in their own counsels.**

Ezekiel asks a question in **18:31** of his book “ . . . **oh why will ye die, oh house of Israel?**”

And **Jesus** gives answer to that Question in

John 5:40 “. . . **ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.**

Joh 5:44 **How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?**

Actually – Jesus is very clear on this point throughout the Gospel.

This is a recurring theme in John

Joh 1:11 He came unto his own, and **his own received him not.**

Joh 3:19 **And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.**

Joh 8:45 And because I tell *you* the truth, **ye believe me not.** **Joh 8:46** Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, **why do ye not believe me?**

EVEN AFTER JESUS DEMONSTRATES THAT HE HOLDS THE KEY TO LIFE (AND DEATH) IN THE RESURRECTION OF LAZARUS – in **John 11**

But though **he had done so many miracles** before them, **yet they believed not on him:** **Joh 12:37**

THOSE exempted from the universal curse of physical death:

ENOCH - **GEN. 5:24** And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years. and Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated **that he should not see death**; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

ELIJAH - **II Kings 2:2-11** “. . . And it came to pass as they still went on and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and separated them and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.”

Certain Select SAINTS –

I Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We **shall not all sleep**, but we shall all be changed,

I Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, **concerning them which are asleep**, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

I Thessalonians 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Paul tells us:

II Corinthians 1:9 But we had the **sentence of death in ourselves**, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which **raiseth the dead**: Who **delivered** us from so great a death, and **doth deliver**: in whom we trust that **he will yet deliver us;**

II Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. . . .

II Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

NO DEATH IN HEAVEN:

Luke 20:36 **Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.**

Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be **no more death**, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

PRONOUNCED DEAD, 91-YEAR-OLD POLISH WOMAN AWAKENS

By MONIKA SCISLOWSKA

Associated Press – From week of November 12, 2014

WARSAW, Poland (AP) - A Polish doctor says she has been in "deep shock" since learning that a 91-year-old woman she pronounced dead woke up in a morgue several hours later.

The doctor - identified in the media as Wieslawa C. - said on TVN24 television Friday that she was sure the patient was dead after finding "no basic life functions" during a morning house call on Nov. 6.

She said she checked for a pulse on a forearm and neck arteries, listened for a heartbeat and the sound of breathing, and checked the pupils for reaction to light, but found none. "If I had had doubts, I would have called the ambulance, done an electrocardiogram, but I was sure that the patient is dead," the doctor said.

The doctor examined the elderly woman, identified by the media as Janina Kolkiewicz, in the eastern town of Ostrow Lubelski after relatives noticed she was not breathing.

Some two hours after she was pronounced dead the woman was taken to the morgue. Shortly before midnight, an undertaker who brought in another body noticed that Kolkiewicz was moving inside a bag she had been placed in. Once it was opened, she complained of being cold and asked for hot tea, the media said. She was then taken home.

A spokeswoman for the local prosecutors, Beata Syk-Jankowska, told The Associated Press that she had never heard of such a case before, and that prosecutors are investigating whether the patient's life and health were endangered by the inaccurate death diagnosis.

They also are **urging a regional court to void the death certificate that local authorities issued, which discontinued Kolkiewicz's benefits such as her pension.**

"In the legal sense, the woman is dead, but in reality she is clearly alive," Syk-Jankowska said.

She said Kolkiewicz has required no hospitalization since being removed from the morgue and is now in good health.

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Baby girl pronounced dead at birth 'comes back to life' three hours later after being left on hospital chapel's altar

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2360068/Baby-girl-pronounced-dead-birth-comes-life-hours-later-left-hospital-chapel-s-altar.html#ixzz3JF2F3xMs>

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This one from July 2013 – Brazil.

- The body of Yasmin Gomes had been placed in a box and left in the chapel

- Nurse 'couldn't face sending her to the morgue', according to reports
- Grandmother arrived to collect body for burial when baby suddenly kicked

A baby girl pronounced dead at birth 'came back to life' **three hours later** on the altar of a hospital chapel, it was reported today.

The body of Yasmin Gomes had been placed in a box and left in the chapel at the hospital in Londrina, south Brazil, by a nurse who 'couldn't face sending her to the morgue', according to reports.

The baby's grandmother Elza Silva told Brazil's Globo G1 website: 'At first I couldn't believe it, we couldn't accept that it could happen.

'Then we saw that she was breathing. We hugged each other and started to shout, 'she's alive, she's alive'. It was a miracle.'

Romans 14:7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Ps. 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the **valley of the shadow of death**, I will fear no evil; For **You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**

Ps. 116:15 "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."

Acts 7:59-60 "And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, **he fell asleep.**

I Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all **sleep**, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

I Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

II Corinthians 1:9 But we had the **sentence of death in ourselves**, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which **raiseth the dead**: Who **delivered** us from so great a death, and **doth deliver**: in whom we trust that **he will yet deliver us**;

II Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. . . .

II Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Philippians 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. for to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: **NEVERTHELESS TO ABIDE IN THE FLESH IS MORE NEEDFUL FOR YOU.**

I Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning **them which are asleep**, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which **sleep in Jesus** will God bring with him.

I Thessalonians 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Revelation 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.