

## **Cherished-Chosen-Challenged – April 4, 2010**

### **Life Or Death?**

**“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?’ John 11:25-26**

Martha was faced with a challenge to her faith. A faithful follower of Jesus she is now confronted with the greatest challenge and sorrow of life—death. Her brother Lazarus was dead. He had been dead four days now. Jesus was coming to visit. She knew He has power over all things. She didn't wait for Him to arrive...she ran out to meet Him. Their meeting is somewhat awkward. It is almost as if she scolds the Lord of Glory for not being there. He will get the same communication from Martha's sister Mary when He arrives at the tomb—“Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”

The Bible teaches us that since the Fall of Adam we are subject to three different kinds of death: spiritual death, physical death, and eternal death. We all come into the world spiritually dead, for the Bible says, “you were dead in your trespasses and sins.” Physical death is a result of the curse of sin. The Bible says, “the wages of sin is death.” Eternal death is the result someone undergoing physical death who is in the state of being spiritually dead, as the Scriptures teach, “he that does not believe shall be damned.” To understand what Jesus is saying about the resurrection and the life one has to understand what the Bible teaches about the three different kinds of death.

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. He showed His power as almighty God over physical death. He also has power over spiritual and eternal death. In baptism you and I have shared in the burial and resurrection of Jesus. We have experienced the resurrection to new life and are no longer spiritually dead. Through faith in Jesus, we are no longer subject to eternal death either for Christ has crushed the power of hell. He is the resurrection and the life! Although our bodies may undergo physical death,

the soul lives on in the presence of Christ's eternal bliss. On the last day Christ will call our bodies forth from the grave to be reunited with our souls that we may live body and soul in perfection and immortality with Christ forever.

Today we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. He is our Savior from sin and has conquered the power of death for us. In Him we shall live forever!

- Remember: The world is always confronted with sorrow and death. Pointing them to Jesus is the only place they will find hope and life.
- Remember: Every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection---not just Easter Sunday! Our best witness to our eternal hope is to be worshipping in God's house every Sunday. It is our constant witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Savior.

How blessed we are to be the people of God. He has chosen us to be in this place. He has prepared us for this time. He has equipped us for service to Him. **Don't wait for someone else to do it. If you wait on someone else to do it...it will never get done!** God bless you in the growth of your faith and in service to Him and His people, for your labor in the Lord is never in vain.

Pastor Jacobs

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