

Living Out the Gospel Series

Part 1: Stop Playing Dead

August 6th, 2023

Romans Chapter 6

Dead to Sin, Alive to God

- 1** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?
- 2** God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?
- 3** Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?
 - So, if you read the devotional I sent out this morning...you already have an idea of our subject matter today...
 - First, I want to be fully obvious/transparent right now
 - I am going to be asking you a lot of questions
 - I already know the answers
 - This is going to be done to manipulate you and your mind to get to where I believe you need to be
 - Second, I want to apologize
 - You see, I connect dots in my head
 - I do not connect dots in yours
 - So, I more than likely have really not been making great application of the Word for you all
 - I say that because there are very few of you that are truly living the Gospel
 - You see, when someone is living out the gospel, it is obvious in their life
 - Remember, our lives show what we really believe
 - So, I have to assume that I am doing a poor job of living and speaking the truth with helpful application

- Because that can be the only reason that so many of our church are still living in willful sin
- If I was doing my job correctly, we would all be living the gospel
 - I did tell you I was going to be manipulative, right?
- So, let me ask you some questions...
 - Who makes the decisions in your life?
 - Where is the bulk of your time spent when you're not earning a living?
 - Who gets to hear how you feel and/or what concerns you?
 - Who determines where your money goes?
 - Who determines how your time is spent?
 - When something difficult comes up, where do you go?
 - Do you get fearful?
 - Do you get angry?
 - Do you just give up and forfeit?
 - What if you could have a guarantee that if you give all of this over, you could experience great freedom and/or liberty in life?
 - Would you believe it?
 - Would you accept it?
- Do you know what it means to “play dead”?
 - A possum will play dead when it feels threatened
 - That's what many of us do in our Christian walk
 - We know and by we, I mean if you have been coming here at all for any time at all, YOU...you know that you're supposed to die to all that you are

- The problem is that when we feel our way of life is threatened
 - That is to say that someone is going to see that we are in fact not very Christian and the hypocrisy in our life is about to be revealed...
 - We “play dead”
 - We act like we are living for Christ when we are at church
 - We act like we are living for Christ when the preacher’s around
 - We act like we are living for Christ when some weirdos from church are with us
 - We act like we have victory/freedom in our life when we know we are just putting on a show
 - You see I know all this cause I have been all of this
- Now, like I said, I was going to ask questions that I know the answers to
 - I don’t know your answers, but I do know what they should be
 - Not because I am all knowing
 - But because I have had to find these answers out the hard way
 - You see, I’ve known for a long time that my life was supposed to be a living sacrifice
 - **Romans 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.
 - I’ve known that the victory and freedom was only found one way

- **Revelation 12:11** And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.
- This is saying that we have victory in Christ over sin
- We have freedom from sin and self
- This is through Christ's Works (Grace) and what the Word has done in our lives
- But it requires a death to self
 - **Romans 6:1** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?
 - 2** God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?
- The problem was that I was playing dead instead of truly dying to self
 - Who made the decisions in my life?
 - I did
 - Except on Sunday, when I would play dead and go to church
 - Where was the bulk of my time spent when I was not earning a living?
 - Larry time
 - But when asked, I could tell you a passage so you would think I was spending time in the Word
 - Who did I talk to when I had concerns
 - My smoking buddies
 - Who were no help
 - I wouldn't share my life with my wife or the weirdos at church
 - I certainly didn't talk to my pastor
 - Who determines where your money goes?

- Axe handle willing
- **2Corinthians 9:7** Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*
- Who determined where my time was spent?
 - It wasn't with family
 - It wasn't in the Word
 - Life would dictate where my time went, but it was usually work
 - I would say I was being noble when working on Sunday night or Wednesday night to provide for my family
 - If I wasn't working I was too tired to be a husband and father
- When something difficult came up, where did I go emotionally or spiritually?
 - I'd get fearful?
 - I'd get angry?
 - I'd just try to ignore it was there, maybe it would go away?
- When a possum plays dead it is easy prey for whatever is coming at it
 - **1Peter 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:
9 Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.
 - There are a lot of possums walking around with open wounds or deep scars

- When we play dead we aren't saving ourselves from hurt, we are opening ourselves up for it
- Praise God, one day, April 15th, 2005, God showed me something!
 - I thought He wanted my life so He could make me some "Weird Baptist Robot" programed to only do good
 - So, I would play dead when people were around
 - Then He showed me that I could be free in Christ
 - All I needed was to rest in...
 - **His Goodness – Romans 6:4b** not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?
 - **His Grace - 2Corinthians 12:9** And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
- **All God wants if for us to R.I.P. as we die to self and sin...which is where we will be next week as we continue**