

# Life thru death

Sunday, June 30, 2019

## Introduction

### Holy Spirit series

- Been speaking for several weeks on the work of the Spirit
- Today I want to preach a message long those lines - but it is a difficult message

### How do we live in spite of affliction and trouble?

- What does it mean for the believer to endure hardship and struggle and affliction
- Why does the Lord allow it?
- How does He get the glory?

## If we die, His life will shine through us

**2 Cor 4:10-12 (ESV)** (10) *always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. (11) For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. (12) So death is at work in us, but life in you.*

### Connection with previous

- On Pentecost Sunday I preached why we need more of the Spirit
- One of the things - he helps us endure to the end
- That Wednesday, we preached - and I used this passage to further explain it: **2 Cor 4:7-9 (ESV)** (7) *But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. (8) We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; (9) persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;*
- The Spirit enables us to endure

### What does this mean?

- Some difficult phrases in this passage
- We carry "*in our body the death of Jesus*"
- What does that mean
- Or what about "*always being given over to death*"

### External things

- God allows things ... hardships into our lives

- Consider Jesus - who went to the cross
- Consider Paul - writing from prison
- Consider the suffering of His saints through history
- He didn't promise to make this life easy.
- See again *pressed but not crushed, persecuted but not abandoned, struck down but not destroyed*
- I don't know what you're going through... but it may be the external things that bring the death of Jesus into our lives

### Internal decisions

- Choosing to die to self
- See **Mark 8:34-37 (ESV)** (34) *And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. (35) For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. (36) For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? (37) For what can a man give in return for his soul?*
- **Note:** Just after *get thee behind me Satan*
- We are called to die that He might live!

### Why would we do it?

#### His life manifested in us

- If we die - he lives through us
- This is the spiritual principle here - when I choose his death in my life - that allows His life to shine through me
- **Ask:** Seeking the Lord - but what if he's already in us, waiting to get out?

#### People are changed by that

- We need the ministry of the Spirit
- We have to die in order to let him out
- Otherwise the body suffers

#### Illustrate:

- To illustrate this point - consider a banana
- We peel away the outside to receive that which is inside
- Wonderful for the eater...
- Not so great for the banana
- **Point:** God wants to "peel away" the outside so His life can be revealed

### We will only die if we believe in his life

**2 Cor 4:13-15 (ESV)** (13) *Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, (14) knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. (15) For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.*

### Our faith

- We believe Jesus rose from the dead
- The core of the Gospel: **1 Cor 15:3-4 (ESV)** (3) *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, (4) that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,*
- Jesus died and rose again
- His death was for our sins
- We will share with him in His life, if we share with him in His death
- See **1 Cor 15:1-2 (ESV)** (1) *Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, (2) and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you--unless you believed in vain.*
- We received this, we believed it, we're standing on it - and being saved by it
- See we must endure to the end

### Our profession

- Declare Jesus is alive
- He will raise us from the dead
- **Note:** Again core of the Gospel we are to proclaim

### Our choice

- Therefore we choose to die - so that we might live

### Our goal

- As we choose to die - this brings praise and glory to God
- All we do should be constrained by this goal

### As we die, stay focused on His life

**2 Cor 4:16-18 (ESV)** (16) *So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. (17) For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, (18) as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*

## Don't lose hope

- Point of this message - stay strong to the end
- In spite of the struggle and suffering we endure

## Recognize the process

- This is God's process!
- Let our inner self be renewed daily - we need that
- These afflictions are preparing an eternal reward
- **Note:** There is no other way! It is through choosing to die and allowing His death in us that we will live

## Set your eyes on the eternal

- Keep your eyes on the glory to be revealed
- These things, this world - its good and bad - it's only temporary
- That which is unseen - it is eternal
- Set your eyes and hope on the eternal!
- See the encouragement from Hebrews **Heb 12:1-2 (ESV)** *(1) Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (2) looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*