

Dead Men Walking

*The Bible Story of
The Dead Who Struggle To Find
Life In The Midst of Darkness*

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Introduction

The world, at least America, has a strange fascination about dead people. We have a TV show on “The Walking Dead” and movies that are promoted with such phrases as, “I See Dead People”.

All of this is filmmakers trying to tap into a lust for horror and evil that wells up in the hearts of men. Skulls are more prevalent on T-Shirts. Body art has a full display of “All Things Dead” tattoos. Suicide is more popular than ever.

Righteousness in the hearts of men and women is slowly being replaced with unrighteousness. There is a huge swing from right to left in the morality of Americans. This is so obvious in these last days than ever before.

Who would have ever thought that a political party would openly support Abortion, Gay Rights, and other immoral lifestyles? Who would have ever thought that Socialism would grow in popularity in the land of the free and the brave?

The Source of The Problem

The problem, as I see it, is the condition of man’s heart. He is utterly depraved and wicked at the core. Read what the Bible has to say...

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” Jeremiah 17:9

Deceitful and Desperately Wicked...this is a picture of the heart. Jesus embellished this condition when He said, *“Not that which goes into the mouth defiles a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defiles a man.” Matthew 15:11*

So we cannot blame our shortcomings on our society, our parents, our environment, a schoolteacher, poverty, or anything else...except ourselves. Our belief system and our actions shape our society. It’s not the other way around.

This fascination with “Death” is already in our hearts. We lust for it and even wear it in public on clothing and promote it in our speech. As Christians, we realize that our hearts are or were of the same mindset but we no longer desire to participate in the death of a nation and/or the loss of even one human soul. Some of us have read the scriptures and are even now

seeking to apply its divine truth. We are counseled of God and do not put our will above His. He tells us such things as this;

“Keep thy heart more than anything that is guarded; for out of it are the issues of life.” Proverbs 4:23

To keep one’s heart is to guard it so it doesn’t get stolen, damaged or overwhelmed by evil. The practical “How To” knowledge on what exactly to do is written on the pages of the scriptures in nuggets of wisdom and pearls of instruction that are given to us as precious promises.

So the source of the problem is the heart of man. But how did it get so bad that it became so evil?

The Reason For The Problem

Didn’t God create man? How could He create a being that is so evil? He didn’t. He created man in His own image and likeness with a free will to reason and make his own decisions. He also held him accountable for his choices.

The reason a pure heart becomes impure is Sin. The Heart has been corrupted by SIN. The thing is, man corrupted himself by rebelling against God. In doing so, he died. To understand this better, we will have to examine the concept of Life and Death.

The Bible looks at life, as a state of being that is Spiritual, not physical. Life is always in relationship to God. Abundant life, as Jesus said in John 10:10 is the full expression and flow of God dwelling with man in a blessed relationship.

Death, on the other hand is viewed in biblical terms as a separation from God; a banishment; a total and complete rejection by God; and being cut off from the presence of God forever.

Physical death is only a transition into the spiritual realm where souls are judged and assigned an eternal destiny. Hear what the Bible says;

“The soul that sinneth, it shall die” Ezekiel 18:20... this is not a maybe but an absolute. You sin, you die and death is not only physical but also spiritual. The soul is forever separated from the presence of a holy and righteous God.

The Biblical Meaning of Sin

Let's take a moment to clarify the biblical meaning of SIN. The original meanings of *sin* were largely concerned with religious matters ("an offense against religious or moral law"; "a transgression of the law of God"; "a vitiated state of human nature in which the self is estranged from God"), as they still are today.

In a religious context, **sin** is an act of transgression against divine law. **Sin** can also be viewed as any thought or action that endangers the ideal relationship between an individual and God.

When we sin, we engage in an act of rebellion against the known laws of God. It can be a conscious act or as a result of a lack of knowledge as to the law. It's like being stopped for speeding, only to discover that the speed limit was 35 and you thought it was 45. The law is still the law. The fact that you did not know it doesn't matter. You are still guilty.

So it is with God. His mark is moral purity, which is Holiness. To not know or to know and not be holy is still Sin and God has said that you are guilty and has already passed judgment on all who sin. That soul or all those souls shall die.

Sin pollutes the heart, making it evil and rebellious. The heart, that was originally created to love God and to manifest His image and likeness in the earth, has become carnal which the Bible calls, "The Flesh".... These are the, "***Dead Men Walking.***" They miss the mark of holiness, falling short of what God intended for them. They walk in the flesh, in darkness and are dead spiritually.

The works of this "Flesh" known as carnality, are:

Galatians 5:19–21 speaks of the works of the flesh, saying they are "evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these."

***"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit,
and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."
Galatians 5:16***

Two Men & Their Descendants

The Bible tells the story of two men and follows their descendants through history. These two men were prototypes. One man was Adam. His descendants will all die because of Sin. However the other man is Jesus and His descendants will live forever. Read what Paul says to the church at Corinth and the church at Rome:

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. I Corinthians 15:22-23

All die in Adam. Why?

“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: Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.” Romans 5:12 &14

All Made Alive In Christ. How?

Jesus spoke to the crowd around Him and said, *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life. ... For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”* John 3:16

It is important to know that the descendants of Adam were born of the flesh. Whereas those made alive in Christ were, “Born Again”, of the Spirit.

*“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be **born of water** and of the **Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is **born of the flesh is flesh**; and that which is **born of the Spirit is spirit.**”* John 3:5-6

Born of The Flesh

When the Bible speaks of the “flesh,” it is often referring to our natural sin tendencies. We are all born with a sin nature (Romans 5:12). Our natural predilection is to please ourselves any way we see fit. We can be trained to

behave in more socially acceptable ways and even find enjoyment in being kind to others.

However, without the power of God, we remain self-centered. We do what we do, even good things, because we receive some selfish payoff. Anything not done from faith or love for God; any deed not empowered by the Holy Spirit is a “work of the flesh” (Romans 8:8; 14:23).

Born of The Spirit

Those born of the Spirit are the descendants of Christ...in that they are now “In Christ”. The Bible expresses it this way, *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”* Galatians 2:20

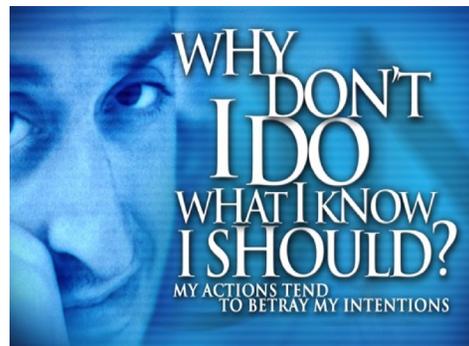
The First & Last Adam

The 1st Adam was of the dust of the ground. The Last Adam was a life-giving Spirit...the Lord from heaven.

The Lord Jesus is the last Adam. He is also known as the Second Man. He is the last man to be without a sin nature. His nature was both human and divine. He was the second man - the man from heaven. As the God-man, He could be the suitable sacrifice for the sins of the world. The Bible says that Jesus offered Himself as the sacrifice for sin.

“So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being” the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven.
I Corinthians 15:45-48

Think of it this way. There were only two men that walked the earth that did not possess a sin nature. They were Adam, before he transgressed God’s command and Jesus. All the rest of us possessed a sin nature at birth and are in bondage to it all of our lives.



Dead Men Walking

So what does all of this have to do with “Dead Men Walking?” Only this... all the descendants of Adam, that being every human being that was born on the earth, throughout all the centuries, were born dead. They did not have the Spirit of God in them that was given to Adam at his creation. Death (Spiritual Separation from God), passed upon all men.

There are a few exception like children that die before reaching the age of accountability, mentally challenged adults that cannot reason to understand and those that put their trust in the Messiah (Hebrew for Anointed One) or Christ (Greek for Anointed one)

The dead men walking operate solely in their own flesh, which is a sinful or carnal nature. By nature, they transgress the laws of God, rebelling against His wisdom and counsel. It is there way or the highway. They are under the judgment of God at birth and in need of a savior.

These folks formed nations, spoke different languages and developed different cultures, all without God. Doesn't this sound like our present day world? It is full of dead men and women walking in the flesh, ignoring the will of God, and living in a nature that is unholy, immoral, and rebellious towards the love of God.

It amazes me to read John 3:16. I cannot imagine how God could love a world in such a state of rebellion and to send His only Son to be a willing sacrifice for sin, which was the penalty, that God himself imposed upon all souls that sin, especially knowing all would sin. What kind of love is this? It is glorious in our sight.

Who Are The Dead Men Walking?

Now that you know that everyone that has ever lived on planet earth, with the exception of those that have been “Born Again” and previously mentioned are all Dead Men Walking.... how do you feel about that?

I am, “Born Again” and I feel great. I thank God every day that He sent Jesus as my substitute to die in my stead and to live the life I could not attain...all of this so I could be forgiven and redeemed from the curse of the law. What do you say? Email me at johnmarinelli@embarqmail.com and let me know what you think and how you feel.

Conclusion

The people of earth struggle in the darkness of their own sin, searching for life but see no value in living it because they know death is imminent and all their efforts will have been in vein. They question where they came from, why they are here and where they are going when they die.

I hope that this eBook has shined a light into your darkness and revealed a path that will lead you out of that darkened state of mind into the glorious light of God's forgiveness and love. This is the place where you can live and move and have your being. You can find yourself in Him.

May the Lord bless you and keep you in His grace.

A Whisper In The Wind

There's a whisper in the wind,
That lingers both day and night.
A champion of truth and justice,
By the power of His might.

A word in due season,
That echoes from deep within.
A voice out of nowhere,
Reproving the world of Sin.

Look there, in the street,
And here, by the shores of the sea.
There's a whisper hidden in the wind,
A voice from eternity.

There's a calling from God.
His voice is hidden in the wind.
In a whisper, He speaks to our hearts,
With the love and counsel of a friend.

Listen for the whisper,
All who seek to know.
It is God's Holy Spirit,
Telling you which way to go.

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"Be still, and know that I am God: ." Psalm 46:10