

“Alive to God”
(Romans 6:11)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. This morning, we considered
 - a. That if we have trusted Jesus Christ as our Savior
 - b. And truly submitted to Him as Lord,
 - c. Then when He died on the cross,
 - d. We also died with Him to sin.

2. This means the power of sin has been broken in our lives:
 - a. We no longer want to do things that are dishonoring to God.
 - (i) That hurt others,
 - (ii) That just please ourselves,
 - (iii) Or that bring honor and glory to ourselves.

 - b. Sadly, this desire isn't perfect:
 - (i) We still struggle with sin.
 - (ii) Even though our old nature/man has been crucified,
 - (iii) It's not entirely dead.
 - (iv) Our heart is divided
 - (a) Between good,
 - (b) And evil.

 - c. But thankfully, the Lord promises
 - (i) That our desire against evil will win,
 - (ii) So that we will not practice any sin.
 - (iii) We are no longer the slaves of sin.

B. Preview.

1. But there's more:
 - a. Not only are we no longer slaves to sin,
We are now the servants of righteousness.
 - b. Not only was the power of sin broken,
The Lord has given us the power to obey.
 - (i) Just as Jesus was raised from the dead,
 - (a) So you have been raised to live a new kind of life in Him (v. 4).
 - (b) The word in the Greek refers to something that is extraordinarily or radically new.

 - (ii) Your life is now directed towards God – His glory, His honor –
 - (a) Now, you willingly bend the knee,
 - (1) To submit to His holy will (v. 10).

(2) As your Lord and King.

(b) Now you are to see yourself,

(1) As one who has been raised from the dead

(2) To serve the Lord alone (v. 13).

2. This evening, let's consider that if you're trusting in Jesus, you have been raised from spiritual death now to live for God's glory. We'll look at two things:
- a. What it means to live for God.
 - b. What that will look like in your life.

II. Sermon.

A. First, what does it mean to live for God?

1. It means first, you will do what He wants you to do,
 - a. Rather than what you want to do,
 - (i) If you happen to want to do something
 - (ii) That is contrary to His will.
 - b. If you are to live for God, you must choose
 - (i) What you know is honoring to Him.
 - (ii) Edwards wrote in his very first Resolution, "1. Resolved, That I will do whatsoever I think to be most to the glory of God, and my own good, profit, and pleasure, in the whole of my duration; without any consideration of the time, whether now, or never so many myriads of ages hence. Resolved, to do whatever I think to be my duty, and most for the good and advantage of mankind in general. Resolved, so to do, whatever difficulties I meet with, how many soever, and how great soever."
 - (a) Note that Edwards did not believe that choosing God's will
 - (1) Would ultimately hurt you,
 - (2) Or rob you of anything worthwhile,
 - (3) But would end in your blessing.
 - (b) There is a reason God wants you to choose His ways –
 - (1) They are the best.
 - (2) And they always end in blessing.
2. It means second that you will do what He wants for the right reasons:
 - a. Because that's also what you want to do.
 - (i) Not only because you're thankful for all He's done for you,
 - (ii) Not only because you love Him and want to glorify Him,
 - (iii) But also because you actually prefer His ways to yours.
 - b. You won't obey Him because He's forcing you,
 - (i) Or because of what He threatens if you don't,
 - (ii) Or because of what others might think about you if you do or don't,

- (iii) Or even what you might think of yourself.
 - c. You will do it because you are a new creature,
 - (i) Who delights in doing everything
 - (ii) That is good and right.
3. It means third that you will do what He wants no matter what it might cost you personally.
 - a. Again, Edwards writes in a later resolution, “57. Resolved, When I fear misfortunes and adversity, to examine whether I have done my duty, and resolve to do it and let the event be just as Providence orders it. I will, as far as I can, be concerned about nothing but my duty and my sin.”
 - b. When you are faced with a choice,
 - (i) You will choose what God wants,
 - (a) Even if it looks like your choice
 - (b) Will put you in a very difficult situation.
 - (ii) It’s better to choose what’s right and suffer for it,
 - (a) Than to choose what’s wrong to avoid suffering.
 - (b) In the end, it will work out for your blessing.
 4. It means fourth, that you will do what He wants at all times.
 - a. Not only on Sundays.
 - b. Not just when others are watching you.
 - c. But even in secret, when no one else is around.
 - d. You will live to please God, not others.
 5. And it means you will do what He wants for the rest of your life.
 - a. Not just when you’re young,
 - b. And not just when you’re old.
 - c. You will serve Him
 - (i) From the time He makes you alive spiritually,
 - (ii) To the time you finally enter into heaven.
 - (iii) This is what it means to live for God.
- B. Second, what will this look like?
1. When you move from spiritual death to spiritual life, It should make a remarkable difference – A radical change in your life.
 - a. Your old way of living should be broken,
 - b. And you should begin to live a new kind of life.
 - c. In so many churches today – if not most –
 - (i) When a person is “converted,”
 - (a) It means they begin attending church, sometimes;
 - (b) They begin attending Bible Studies, occasionally;
 - (c) If the church has a prayer meeting, they might go, but less frequently.

- (d) If they're young, they go to the youth meetings.
 - (e) And that's about it.
 - (f) The rest of their lives remain the same:
 - (g) They just go on living the way they want to.
- (ii) This is so common,
- (a) That many churches have developed a theology
 - (b) To explain how it can be that so many who prayed the prayer
 - (c) Haven't really changed at all.
 - (d) They call it the Gospel of Grace.
 - (e) We call it Easy Believism,
 - (f) And the destruction of the Gospel.
- d. Paul tells us the change will be far more radical than no change at all.
- (i) This was certainly the case in his own life.
- (a) Before he came to know Jesus Christ,
 - (1) He was on his way to Damascus to arrest Christians,
 - (2) To bring them back to Jerusalem for trial,
 - (3) Either to force them to blaspheme,
 - (4) Or to put them to death if they refused.
 - (b) When he was converted on that road,
 - (1) That old man died,
 - (2) And he became a new creature.
 - (3) His life was completely turned around.
 - (4) He immediately began to preach the Gospel,
 - (5) And did all in his power to glorify His Lord (Acts 26).
- (ii) Being raised to spiritual life must create a change that everyone can see.
- (a) Those who saw Paul didn't know what to make of him.
 - (1) He was now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy (Gal. 1:23).
 - (2) He did so even though it meant persecution and suffering.
 - (3) It wasn't a temporary change – he kept on pursuing these things
 - (4) To the very end of his life,
 - (5) Because he loved the Lord more than life.
 - (b) The change in your life might not be as powerful,
 - (1) It might be much more subtle.
 - (2) But it must be as radical,
 - (3) If you are now alive to God.
- (iii) When you are dead to sin and alive to God,
- (a) You no longer ask what you want to do,
But what would the Lord have you do.

- (b) You don't look in the Bible
 - (1) To see if you can justify the direction you want to take,
 - (2) But to see what direction the Lord wants you to take.

- (c) You no longer live for yourself,
But for God.

- (d) You no longer want to take the helm of your life,
But allow the Lord to steer you by His Word and Spirit.

- (e) You begin to understand why you are here –
 - (1) It's not to see how much fun you can have before you die,
 - (A) Or to make your mark on the world,
 - (B) So that you'll be remembered when you're gone –

 - (2) But to bring as much pleasure as you can to God,
 - (A) To make a mark on this world for Him,
 - (B) To love Him,
 - (C) To serve Him,
 - (D) To bring glory to His name,
 - (E) In whatever circumstances
 - (F) And opportunities the Lord gives you.
 - (G) Whatever the cost to you personally.
 - (H) It's to give your life to God in the same way Jesus gave His.
 - (I) As Paul wrote in our meditation this morning, "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me" (Gal. 2:20).

- (f) The question you should be asking is not
 - (1) What do I want to do with my life?
 - (A) But what does God want me to do with it?
 - (B) What did He make me for?

 - (2) It shouldn't be, What do I want to do today?
But what does God want me to do?

 - (3) You are not to live for yourself,
 - (A) You are to live for God.
 - (B) Paul writes, "For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's" (Rom. 14:7-8).

- (4) This is what we're going to be considering over the next several Lord's Day evenings.
- (A) If we are true believers,
 - (B) If we are to attain to the resurrection of the dead,
 - (C) If the kingdom of heaven is to move forward,
 - (D) Then we must die to sin,
 - (E) And live to God.

2. In closing, ask yourself these questions:

- a. Have I died with Christ to sin?
- b. Have I been raised with Him to live for God?
- c. Does my life show that it has?
- d. If the answer is yes, then remember:
 - (i) This doesn't mean you won't struggle with obedience.
 - (ii) Make sure you are nurturing your desire to serve Him –
 - (a) Through the means of grace – prayer, the Word, worship, fellowship –
 - (b) And that you're killing the desires
 - (c) Of the old you that was crucified.
- e. If the answer is no,
 - (i) Your life doesn't show this new life,
 - (ii) Then come to Jesus now.
 - (a) Trust in Him now.
 - (b) Be crucified with Him on the cross.
 - (c) Be raised again with Him by faith.
 - (d) Become a new creature by trusting Him.
 - (e) If the old you doesn't die with Him,
 - (f) There will be no new you to live with Him. Amen.

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