

The Day I Attended My Own Funeral

First United Pentecostal Church
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Hebrews 9:27-28 ²⁷And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: ²⁸So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

- Tombstone quotes from “The Epitaph Browser”
- Everyone here has ONE APPOINTMENT with death – you can’t escape it. The statistics on death are still running at 100% - one out of every one people dies!
- And, contrary to popular belief, the statistics are not running that high on those going to Heaven! In fact, the Bible says, “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” (Matthew 7:13-14)
- The most exaggerated statistic on planet earth is the number of Christians – everyone who calls himself a Christian is not saved!
- We were not created by an eternal God to die; we were created to LIVE ETERNALLY with Him. So how did we get in this horrible situation? To answer that, you have to go back to the opening chapter of human history ...
- **Genesis 2:16-17** ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: ¹⁷But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.
- **DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD ALWAYS BRINGS DEATH!**

- **Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- What really happened when Adam and Eve disobeyed God’s command? God had warned that disobedience would result in death (Genesis 2:16-17), but did Adam instantly fall dead? No, he lived to the age of 930 years! And yet, man DID die the very moment he ate the forbidden fruit.
- Since man is a spirit-being, it was into man’s spirit that death entered. This does not mean that his spirit ceased to exist, for spiritual death is not a state of non-existence, but rather a state of separation and alienation from God.
- **There are three kinds of death in Scripture:**
 - PHYSICAL DEATH** separates man’s spirit and soul from his body
 - SPIRITUAL DEATH** separates man’s spirit from God
 - SECOND DEATH** is an eternal separation of man from God
- **Revelation 20:11-15** ¹¹And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.
- Remember that you only have **ONE APPOINTMENT** with death that cannot be changed. If the other two “death appointments” ever take place, **you will be the one who schedules them!**

- **But I don't want to attend these appointments!** The bad news is that, because of mankind's sin, Satan has been able to schedule them for each of us. Spiritual death happens before your birth (!), and the second death will happen long after your funeral.
- **Psalm 51:5** Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- Ever had an appointment you wanted to get out of? The good news is that God has designed a way to escape the horrible destiny Satan has planned for you!
- **Revelation 20:6** Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.
- **YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST MAKE IT IN THE FIRST RESURRECTION TO ESCAPE THE SECOND DEATH!**
- The word "resurrection" means "to make to stand" or "rise up." Here is what Scripture teaches about this event:
 - The body of saints in the grave will rise again to be united with the soul. In some sense, their identity will be preserved.
 - The body will be changed and refined (glorified) to fit it for the new surroundings of Heaven.
 - The power for the resurrection is provided by Jesus Christ who said, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." (John 11:25)
- The resurrection of the righteous will take place at the coming of Christ; the resurrection of the unsaved will take place at the Great White Throne Judgment. **THAT'S WHY OUR RESURRECTION IS CALLED THE "FIRST RESURRECTION!"**
- So how do I make it in the first resurrection? Here's a simple equation that explains it:

BORN ONCE = DIE TWICE
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- **John 3:3-5** ³Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ⁵Jesus 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.
- **You have to DIE to your old life before God can give BIRTH to your new life! That's why the "new birth" is also portrayed as a "death" in Scripture.**
- **Romans 6:3-5** ³Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:
- **YOU CAN "ATTEND YOUR OWN FUNERAL" (AND RESURRECTION!) TODAY** by obeying the gospel – that's the only path to NEW LIFE!
- **Acts 2:38** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.