

The Baptism of Lord, 01-12-25, Romans 6:1-11
DEAD, YET ALIVE!

There is a mystery to death! Experts debate exactly when death occurs. As they do so, they find the answer is a little elusive. Is it when the heart stops beating? That would seem to be the case. We cannot survive without a heartbeat. Then others think it is not quite that simple. They may question if it is when the brain stops functioning. Obviously, the brain controls everything! Then, what about people who flatline, as they call it? They do not respond and appear to be dead, but then some of them are revived. Did they die then come back? A number of them claim to have had life after death experiences, which I am not addressing here. But the question remains, did they die for a little while and “come back”? Only God knows!

The point I want to make here is that Scripture, especially our text, tells us that there is death and there is Death! Just as there is life, and then there is Life! God wants us to have LIFE!

So what about the theme for today? Dead, yet alive! Is that possible? Are things even more mysterious than we thought? You probably have heard of having a “win/win” situation where everyone wins. God wants us to have a LIFE/LIFE situation, in Jesus!

There are different combinations of death/life...

Such as those who are:

Spiritually Dead...but physically alive...

That being many, referring to unbelievers, which is not good, and not what God wants!

Spiritually Dead...and are physically Dead...

That’s the worst thing!!! It is hell! Definitely NOT what God wants!

Physically alive...and Spiritually Alive...

That is what we want to be, and are in Christ!

Physically dead...and Spiritually Alive!

They are safe and secure in heaven!

Physically Alive...and Spiritually Alive!...

That is what we await in Christ’s Return!

One definition here leads to another...

Including the following thoughts...

Everyone dies...that is physically, everyone dies (except Enoch and Elijah), and except those who Are still alive when Jesus returns! It is the “wages of sin” ...and some (as said before); God does Not want that anyone spiritually dies!

Death is necessary...it is the punishment for sin...but as Paul says in our text, we are called to Die to sin, by being Baptized. After all, today is the Baptism of our Lord, that we are observing! He was Baptized in identifying with us sinners, even though He was/is sinless! We are baptized To be saved from sin!

It can go one way or the another...we can live in sin...or we can die to sin (Baptism!)

Our Sinful Nature has to be crucified! The thing is though that it keeps trying to make a Comeback! It tries to keep rising again! So, this Crucifying has to be connected to the Death of Jesus, Who bore our sin on the cross!
It is a daily killing of our sinful nature (Baptism!)

Living in death...leads to Death!
Living in LIFE...leads to LIFE, eternal!!!

So, Death is necessary, that LIFE is possible!

So, Paul reminds us...

Jesus DIED!!!....

Physically, of course...yet, also Spiritually!
In fact, on the cross, Jesus DIED Eternally, suffering hell itself!
But, He Who IS Almighty God, overcame it! He won the victory over hell!

He died for us!

He died the death we deserved!
So that, dying with Him, we **LIVE** with Him!

What, then, does that mean?

It means no more living according to sin!
We still struggle against it, but it does NOT rule over us!

Because He was Raised...

We walk in New Life, by the Holy Spirit, in the Word!

United in Death with Him, we are united in Resurrection with Him!

“If we die with Him, we LIVE with Him!”

He will NEVER die again! “Death no longer has mastery over Him! The death He died, he died to sin
Once for all”
He IS the Lord of LIFE!

“Therefore, consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ!”
Amen!