

The Walking Dead

Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-9

Introduction

Since a few days before I was asked to speak today, this passage of scripture has been resonating in my spirit.

I. Walking dead

Ephesians 2:1-3 KJV And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

- A. Living for the moment
- B. Living for pleasure

1 Timothy 5:6 KJV But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.

- 1. Drugs / alcohol
- 2. Sports
- 3. Entertainment
- 4. Sexual pleasure
- C. Living for money / possessions
- D. No plan for eternity

Only one life, 'Twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last

Plaque on Grandpa Grubbs' wall

II. Unbelievable mercy

Ephesians 2:4 KJV But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

- A. God has chosen to forgive the unforgiveable
- B. God has chosen to forget your sins
- C. God has chosen to pardon your iniquities
- D. God has declared you "Not guilty"

III. Amazing transformation

Ephesians 2:5 KJV Even when we were dead in sins, **hath quickened us** together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

- A. Quickened ... Given new life
- B. Hope for the hopeless
- C. Grace for those who cannot go on
- D. Some testimonies

- 1. Lyle Noah
- 2. Ron Huddleston
- 3. Dale Heitmann
- E. It doesn't matter what you have been ... all that matters is what God declares you can be

IV. Incredible future

Ephesians 2:6-7 KJV And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

- A. God's declaration to Jeremiah

Jeremiah 1:5 KJV Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

- B. God has goals and purposes for you in this life that you cannot imagine
- C. God has an eternal purpose and plan to bless you for eternity

Conclusion

On Thursday, the news reported the suicide death of Chris Cornell, lead singer for Soundgarden. The turmoil brought about by being dead on the inside while apparently having everything to live for was too much to reconcile. So in desperation, he took his own life.

You have a choice today. You can continue to be part of the walking dead ... Or you can accept God's mercy and grace to be transformed into the person you were born to be.