

The Living Dead

I. Introduction

a. Talk about zombies

- i. “Vampires are all the rage in books, on TV and at the movies, but another contingent of the undead is storming our pop culture landscape...Zombies are everywhere.” - “Zombies lurch into popular culture via books, plays, more - USATODAY.com,” n.d., http://www.usatoday.com/life/books/news/2009-04-08-zombies-pop-culture_N.htm.
- ii. Horrible undead creatures
 1. Their body is animated, but they have no soul or will
 2. Often arise as attempts of men to avoid or overcome physical death
 3. Or the attempts of sorcerers or users evil spiritual forces to gain control of the dead and use them as servants
- iii. But these ideas are the creation of human imagination, they are not real, are they?
- iv. Zombies, while not real, reflect an important reality which we are going to study in this lesson

b. The fact is that human beings have two lives, and therefore can actually be living dead in two very different ways.

- i. Most of us have been living dead
- ii. There may even be some living dead among us this morning

II. Key Thought: We will examine our two lives, and the two ways in which we can be living and dead at the same time.

III. Our Two Lives

a. We have a physical life

- i. We are either physically dead and or physically alive
- ii. Physical life is when our immortal spirit inhabits our physical body
- iii. Physical death occurs when our immortal soul leaves our physical body – James 2:26

b. We also have a spiritual life

- i. We are either spiritually alive or spiritually dead
- ii. We are spiritually alive when our spirits are in fellowship with God
- iii. We are spiritually dead when our spirits are separated from God by sin - Rom. 7:9

c. This understanding of our two lives is key to living successfully as a human being

- i. Secular society denies the existence of an immortal human soul
 1. In doing so, they make man less than half a man
 - a. 1 Cor. 15:19,32 – Attempting to be better than we are will only make us unhappy, we should eat drink and be merry

2. There is no greater difference that can exist between two people than the difference between living as though this world is all there is, and living according to the reality of spiritual life.
 - ii. And makes several difficult scriptures plain – 1 Pet 4:6; Rom. 5:
- IV. The Bad Living Dead:
- a. Alive Physically, Dead Spiritually
 - i. Because they have not been spiritually resurrected
 1. Those who set their mind on the flesh rather than the spirit (Rom. 8:5-6)
 2. Matt. 8:21-22 – The dead burying their dead
 - ii. Because their new spiritual life is dead
 1. Those who are self-indulgent (1 Tim 5:5-6)
 2. Christians who walk with soiled garments (Rev. 3:1-6)
 3. Outwardly righteous, but inwardly lawless (Matt. 23:27-28)
 4. Those who are not careful to observe the worship of God and Christ in a holy and worthy manner. (1 Cor. 11:29-30)
 - iii. It is a horrible condition to be physically alive and spiritually dead, but there is something worse
 - b. Doubly Dead, Yet Living
 - i. Mark 9:42-48 – Eternal Death
 - ii. Luke 16:22-25 – Like the Rich Man
 - iii. The second Death – Rev. 21:8
 - iv. Like all the unrighteous – Rev. 20:13-15
 - v. We don't have to experience that – Rev. 2:10-11
- V. The Good Living Dead:
- a. Dead Physically, Alive Spiritually
 - i. Matt. 10:28 – Men can kill the body, but they cannot kill the soul
 - ii. Matt. 22:31-32 – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob still live
 - iii. Luke 16:22 – Like Lazarus
 - iv. Rev 7:9-17 – It is horrible to be one kind of living dead but wonderful to be this kind!
 - b. Death is not the end
 - i. Spiritual Death is not the end
 1. Prodigal Son – Luke 15:24
 2. Eph. 2:4-7 – We can be raised from spiritual death
 - ii. Physical Death is not the End
 1. Jesus promised to raise us – John 5:25
 2. John 11:25-26 – If we die, yet we shall live
 3. Jesus proved by his resurrection – Luke 24:5
 4. And proved it again by our spiritual resurrection
- VI. Conclusion:
- a. Therefore
 - i. 1 Cor. 15:51-58
 - b. INVITATION