

We Must Die to Live

by Doy Moyer Vestavia church of Christ Vestavia Hills, AL

"I have to die to get better." Have you felt that way? You feel so sick that you about wish you would go ahead and die so that you can feel better? We say that as a bit of a joke (or maybe not). Of course, at the time that we feel so badly, we do wish for about anything to happen that would improve our condition. Being sick is no fun and we will do whatever it takes to feel better. Of course, as Christians, doing "whatever it takes" still needs to be within what is moral and right. The world doesn't always follow that path.

Spiritually, the concept of dying in order to get better is a truth to which we must conform. In order to get better, in order to be free from sin, in order to experience forgiveness and true freedom, we must die. This is an important idea in Scripture. For example, Paul put it this way:

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Col 3:1-4)

Paul follows up by saying, "Put to death therefore what is earthly in you..." then speaks of some of the sins that characterize the one who has not yet died to self. We put to death what is worldly, put off the sins of the flesh, and put on Christ and the new self (vv. 5-15). To be new, the old must go. We must die to live. Paul also wrote to the Romans:

"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." (Rom 6:1-4)

"So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Rom 6:11).

Again, before receiving forgiveness from God, we were considered to be dead in our trespasses and sins (Eph 2:1). That death came as a result of sin (Rom 6:23). However, we must experience another kind of death. This death is a death to self and sin in order to be brought to life by God spiritually. In other words, we must die to live.

This is another way of speaking about self-denial. Jesus told His disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?" (Luke 9:23-25)

Self-denial is a way of putting self to death in order to live for God. If we try to save our lives by refusing self-denial, we will suffer a death no one ultimately wants. If we will deny self, losing our lives for His sake, then we will be saved. It's paradoxical, but if we can see the kinds of death involved, we can see that the point is simply this: we cannot put ourselves first over God and others and expect to receive the blessings God offers. If we want to live, we must die. If we want to be saved, we must lose our lives for His sake.

This is what Jesus did for us. He is the ultimate example of one who emptied (denied) self and died (Phil 2:6-8). Yet, He lives. The resurrection is what makes eternal life possible now, as Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26)

By God's grace, we can die so that we will live. This goes beyond our spiritual death and new life here. This points to an ultimate life that comes from Christ conquering death through His resurrection. We die to live now. Then, because death has been conquered, our physical death is not something to fear because we, too, shall take part in the resurrection of life (Heb 2:14-15).

We don't want to die; we want to live. Yet as physical death is necessary to resurrection, so also is death to self and sin necessary to the new life in Christ. By God's grace we can experience both.

In order to get better and live, we must die. Have you?

NEWSLETTER

July 07, 2019

Mark Dailey, evangelist
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Schedule of Services

Sunday AM Bible Study	9:45 AM
Sunday AM Worship	11:00 AM
No Sunday PM Service	
Wednesday PM Bible Study	7:00 PM

La Salle
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A place of worship and healing.

1121 N. Military Rd.
Niagara Falls, NY 14304
(716) 283-1214

lasallechurchofchrist.org



We welcome all who are here today.

If you are a visitor we are honored to have you with us. Please fill out a *Visitor Card* (on the back of the pew in front of you) so we may have a record of your visit. Later in the service we will pass around a collection plate. As a visitor you are obviously not expected to give but we would like for you to place the *Visitor Card* in the collection plate. Thanks.

There is a nursery at the rear of the auditorium up the stairs for infant care.

Please keep cell phones and other noise making devices silent during Bible study and worship.



Potter Children's Home & Family Ministries
2350 Nashville Rd.
Bowling Green, KY 42101
270 843-3038
potterministries.org

We offer a **free** Bible Correspondence Course



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Prayers *In our prayers, let's praise God, recognize His greatness, and thank Him for His blessings.*

Anna Brink has been feeling dizzy lately.

Michael Rice, let's keep him in our prayers as he seeks employment.

T.J., a friend of Noah Bennett, let's keep him in our prayers.

Debbie Howe, a friend of Frank Marsden's daughter Susan, has cancer.

Marybeth, Frank Marsden's niece, had her thyroid removed recently and it was cancerous.

Let's pray as we continue our preacher search process.

Let's pray for the congregation in Fenwick, ONT as they do the same.

Also

Let's pray for our members that have ongoing health and other issues.

Let's pray for family, friends, and loved ones of our members who are having health and other issues.

Let's not only remember those that are physically sick but those that are spiritually sick as well.

Let's remember to pray for our shut-ins and to call and send cards.

Let's pray for those dealing with family situations as well as work situations.

Let's pray for those dealing with weather related disasters.

Let's pray for those of our number who are looking for employment.

Let's pray for those that are traveling. May they have a safe journey.

Let's pray for God's people that are doing mission work all over the world.

Let's pray for those taking Bible correspondence courses at the present time.

(Scott Forney, Robert Horrace, Anna Brink)

Let's pray for people the world over that we may all learn to get along with each other.

Upcoming Events *(Lord willing)*

Jul. 07-10 Gospel Meeting Linwood church of Christ Please see posting.

Jul. 21 Men's Business Meeting

Jul. 27 Ladies Devotional / Picnic at the Carter's 5 PM (weather permitting, otherwise at the building)

Jul. 28-Aug. 03 Jr. Camp Agape

Aug. 04-Aug. 10 Sr. Camp Agape

Aug. 04 **Potluck** Groups 1, 2, & 3 to setup and cleanup and to make sure the building is secure.



Camp Applications are on the back table.
Please don't wait to the last minute to get them in.

Jul. 28-Aug. 03 Jr. Camp Agape

Aug. 4-Aug. 10 Sr. Camp Agape

Classes and Sermon

Sun. AM Adult Bible Study Hebrews

Sermon Topic Today: Meet A Poor Widow

Scripture Reading: Mark 12:41-44

No Sun. PM Service

Tuesday Ladies' Bible Study - will resume in Sept.

Wed. PM Bible Study 1st Kings



Serving Today

Announcements Mark Dailey

Song Leader Rodney Jones

Direct Communion Bruce Brink

Serve Mark Dailey

Serve Doug Flanagan

Serve Richard Wheeler

Clean Trays Linda Stine

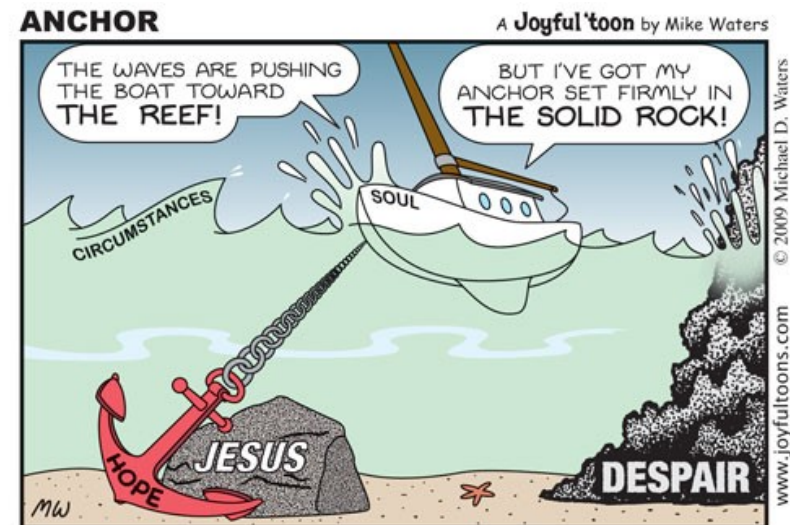
Ladies Mark your calendar.

Saturday July 27 5 PM

Ladies Devotional / Picnic at the Carter's.

Please bring a lawn chair for yourself.

In case of possible bad weather it will be held at the church building. Lawn chair no longer required.



We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

— HEBREWS 6:19 NIV