

Sermon: "you will surely...die."

June 23, 2024 Genesis 2:15-17

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Two branches Illustration

Genesis 2:15-17 "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.'"

Ecclesiastes 7:2 "It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of everyone; the living should take this to heart."

What is death? Death is separation from life:

What does it mean to be separated from God? How can we ever be separated from Him (Psalm 139)? (Romans 8) For nothing in all Creation can separate us from His love! (Hebrews 13) He said he would never leave us nor forsake us.

We can't be separated from his presence, or his love.

Yet, Scripture does point to some kind of separation

When you eat of the tree: "You shall surely die" translates as "dying you shall die" - intensifies the certainty (Genesis 2:17).

Israelites and the Spies Numbers 26:65: "For the Lord had said of them, 'They shall surely die (מוֹת יָמוּתוּ)'. Not one of them was left, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun."

"as good as dead." There is a certainty to the phrase. This is sure to happen. God's word is true. Mankind thinks they know better than God. "In spite of the warning, I want my own way."

Where does death come from? Because of sin.

1. Sin brings death to us

Romans 5:12: "Therefore, just as **sin came into the world through one man (Adam), and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned**—"

Sin brings death. Because death separates us from the source of life and all that is good, pleasing and perfect.

Spiritual Death: Separation from God, the source of life. James 1:17 "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights..."

What happens when we are not connected to Life Himself?

"My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water. - Jeremiah 2:13

"They are darkened in their understanding and *separated from the life of God* because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts." Ephesians 4:18 "Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed." Ephesians 4:19

Sensuality: gratification of the senses for the sake of aesthetic pleasure.
And they are full of greed. They are never satisfied.

You were created to be in relationship with your Creator! With God Himself through Jesus Christ!

IMAGERY: branch on the ground, withered, diseased and dried up, and your life is only good for the fire. "Wretched person that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" Romans 7:24 ESV

2. Jesus took our death.

1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,

1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

And as God declared "dying you will die" in the Garden, in His great plan of redemption He was also declaring, Jesus, my Son, dying you will die.

Ephesians 2: The Message paraphrase

2:1-6 It wasn't so long ago that you were mired in that old stagnant life of sin. You let the world, which doesn't know the first thing about living, tell you how to live. You filled your lungs with polluted unbelief, and then exhaled disobedience. We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat. It's a wonder God didn't lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us. Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, he embraced us. He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. He did all this on his own, with no help from us! All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.

3. Christ brings death to death

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 "For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be **made alive.**"

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God,

"He might bring us to God." And one day: Jesus will put death to death.

1 Corinthians 15:25-26

25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

4. Through Christ, we can bring Death To Sin.

Romans 8:12 Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. 13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

For those that have put their trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, we have the Holy Spirit that dwells in you, and He has nothing to do with death. He is LIFE. What will reign in your body? Will it be death or life? It can't be both.

Colossians 3:5:

"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry."

Galatians 5:24:

"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

Galatians 5:19-21

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; **20** idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions **21** and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

I warn you. Dying, you will die. Revelation 20:

10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever:

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

This is the second death. The second separation. The first is when we separate from our fleshly bodies. But then we will be raised to life to face judgment. And if we're not found connected to the source of life, God Almighty, through Jesus, we will be cast away into the lake of fire, the second death. Where we will be separated from God forever.

James 1:21:

"Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and **humbly accept the word planted in you**, which can save you."

SO WHAT?

Have you recognized that it is your sin that has brought separation from God?

Are you connected to the only source of life?

What sin needs to be put to death so that God can bring life?