

OUR GOD IS ALIVE

Rom 8

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Back in the 60's a newly promoted doctrine of an old theology arose: "**GOD IS DEAD**".
- B. According to Allen Killen (Wycliff Ency. Vol I, pg 693), "THE MOVEMENT IS, BASICALLY AND ESSENTIALLY, JUST A REBELLION AGAINST GOD-GIVEN LAWS AND MORALS!"
1. Nietzsche, Altizer, Tillich, and Bultmann are some of the major proponents.
 2. "Situation Ethics" arose with this (viz., anything can be right in a given situation..murder, lying, adultery, stealing, etc)
- C. Although the "God is Dead" theology began in the 60's, the problem has always been with us.
1. The basic problem NOW, as it has ever been, is just a blatant form of **IDOLATRY**
 2. ANY TIME we put something **BETWEEN US AND GOD**, THEN **TO US GOD IS DEAD.**
 - a) Simplistically, we understand that DEATH is a SEPARATION.
 - b) SO ANYTHING THAT SEPARATES US FROM GOD CAUSES OUR DEATH!
 3. Adam and Eve put lust of flesh and the vain-glory of life between themselves and God (self-satisfaction)!
 4. Israelites made golden idols (God left them)
 5. Modern man...scientific technology..(self- dependency) humanism.
 6. Please consider some excerpts from an **Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn** article: *"I have spent well-nigh 50 years working on the history of the Russian Revolution; in the process I have collected hundreds of personal testimonies, read hundreds of books, and contributed eight volumes of my own. But if I were asked today to formulate as concisely as possible the main cause of the ruinous revolution that swallowed up some 60 million of our people, I could not put it more accurately than to repeat: "Men have forgotten God" "What is more, if I were called upon to identify the principal trait of the entire 20th century, I would be unable to find anything more precise than to reflect once again on how we have lost touch with our Creator."*
- D. The results of a DEAD GOD is **destruction --- EVERY TIME!**
1. Adam and Eve were driven out of garden of Eden.
 2. The Israelites were brought into slavery.
 3. "Scientific man" finds himself at war with his fellow man; our societies suffer from a higher crime rate; and we're constantly indulging ourselves in a lower measure of moral standards! [A lower morality and a dead God go hand in hand, don't they?]
- E. I doubt that hardly any in this whole area **actually believe that God is dead!** [*Who could?*]
1. Then why isn't it shown in ALL our lives that we believe He is living? [**Some do, most don't!**]
 2. If God is not living and active in our lives...then He's **DEAD**. (Moses' face glowed with God's presence)
- F. Let's SHOW the world that OUR GOD IS ALIVE! **Jer.10:6-13**
- G. OUR Living God wants us to live for Him...He will help
1. This study is focused on some verses found in **Romans 8.**
 2. 8 times life, live or quicken appears in this chapter
 3. Let's see what our living God will do for us.

I. OUR LIVING GOD GIVES US LIFE AND PEACE

- A. A **dead God** can't provide us with anything, **especially LIFE.** **Rom.8:1-2-** *"Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death."*
1. In Christ we are to have no fear of either physical OR spiritual death, because we have been set free by being in Christ!
 2. SO, we first must ask ourselves: **Are we "in Christ?" Are we really aware as to how we get into Christ?**
 - a) We must **set our mind on God,** **Rom 8:5-8** *"For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6) For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7) because the mind*

set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, 8) and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”

b) And then we must be baptized into Christ, **Rom 6:1-11**

- B. The LIFE and PEACE we get from our LIVING GOD comes through His Son our **Lord Jesus Christ**.
1. Christ's resurrection guarantees our life by that One Who raised His Son! **Rom 8:11**- *“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”*
 2. Jesus' peace is different from world, **John 14:27** *“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”*

II. OUR LIVING GOD GIVES US DIRECTIONS TO ETERNAL LIFE

- A. *“not in man that walks to direct his steps”, - Jer.10:23; Prov.14:12- “There is a way that seemeth..”*
- B. The ideas from man's reasoning regarding “God is Dead,” communism, socialism, and secular humanism are all attempts for man to direct himself (Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn excerpts from article #2: “It was Dostoyevsky, once again, who said of the French Revolution and its seething hatred of the church that ‘revolution must necessarily begin with atheism.’ But the world had never before known a godlessness as organized, militarized and tenaciously malevolent as that practiced by Marxism. Within the philosophical system of Marx and Lenin, and at the heart of their psychology, hatred of God is the principle driving force, with militant atheism a central pivot. To achieve its end, communism needs to control a population devoid of religious feeling.” *“All attempts to find a way out of the plight of today's world are fruitless unless we redirect our consciousness, in repentance, to the Creator of all. The laws of physics and physiology will never reveal the indisputable manner in which the Creator constantly participates in the life of each of us.”*
- C. **Rom.8:12-14**- *“So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- 13) for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14) For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”*
1. If *“by the Spirit”* (**vs.13**) we put to death immorality, it is UNTO LIFE!
 2. And if we are *“led by the Spirit”* (**vs.14**) we will be **LED TO GOD**, not away from Him.
 3. Our God is Alive, we must learn to let Him lead us!
- D. Where God leads doesn't always seem smooth or even reasonable, but we must allow Him to direct our paths! BE ASSURED, it will be different from the world.

III. OUR LIVING GOD HELPS US PRAY

- A. **Rom.8:26-27**- *“In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27) and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”*
- B. One of our greatest weaknesses is we don't know how to appreciate the blessing of prayer!
- C. But God will help us according to His will
1. His will is that we pray with faith, **Mk.11:23-24**- *“Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. 24) “Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.”*
 2. The Spirit will intercede for us
 3. The Spirit will search our hearts (to look for faith?)
- D. **There would be no sense to prayer IF GOD WERE NOT ALIVE!**

IV. OUR LIVING GOD CAUSES ALL THINGS TO WORK FOR OUR GOOD!

- A. **Rom.8:28**- *“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”*

- B. A dead god cannot cause anything to happen! **I Kings 18:21-24**- “Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people did not answer him a word. 22) Then Elijah said to the people, “I alone am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal’s prophets are 450 men. 23) “Now let them give us two oxen; and let them choose one ox for themselves and cut it up, and place it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other ox and lay it on the wood, and I will not put a fire under it. 24) “Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, He is God.”
- C. But our God can cause things to happen! **I Kings 18:37-39**- “Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that You, O LORD, are God, and that You have turned their heart back again.” 38) Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. 39) When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, “The LORD, He is God; the LORD, He is God.”
1. How does God make things happen today? We don't always know, nor is it even necessary for us to!
 2. His providence will lead us -- He has promised, and He is faithful
- D. God causes things to work for good, and we can trust the One Who truly LOVES US!
- E. We can briefly refer to Joseph's seemingly disasters, and see that they turned out to be good. **Gen.50:20**
- F. To what do you attribute your good fortune (health, job, family, financial well-being, etc)?

V. OUR LIVING GOD WILL GIVE US ALL THINGS.

- A. **What will He give us?** **Rom.8:31-32**- “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32) He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?”
- B. **SALVATION**, and all other spiritual blessings we enjoy IN Christ; **FINANCIAL RESOURCES**, and all other physical blessings WE NEED to get through this life, as provided through His NATURAL LAWS; **PROTECTION** from anything that would deter us from faithful service; and **HEAVEN**, that true home of the soul!
- C. **AGAIN**, how could a **dead god** give us anything?
- D. **MAYBE THE REASON** we haven't always had the success in the past that we've desired is **BECAUSE OUR GOD MAY HAVE BEEN DEAD -- TO US!** **Matt.6:33**

CONCLUSION:

- A. **Rom.8:35-39**- “Who will separate us from the love of Christ?” ***Are you allowing the things of this creation to come between you and your Creator?***
- B. What could possibly be holding you back from serving the Living God? **Don't you Bel. He's alive for you?**
- C. Can you say with David, as in **Psa.42:1-2** “As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God. 2) My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God?”
- D. **Our God is Able to do so much for us!** Why don't we just get all our petty, selfish desires out of His way and allow Him to use us to His glory!
- E. If you've been DENYING **THE LIVING GOD ACCESS INTO YOUR LIFE**, why don't you give in to Him right now. **Repent** of your sins, **Confess** His great name; be **Baptized** to wash away all sin.