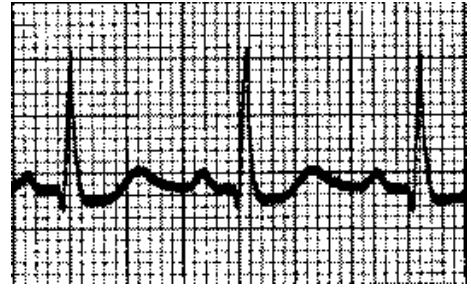


FOLLOW-THROUGH

“Dying to Live”

Sermon 5 in the Series “ALIVE!” based on Colossians
Small Group Discussion around the Sunday Message
February 4, 2007



Introduction

1. Read Colossians 3:1-11 aloud.
2. Often we'll hear or say, "Death is a part of living." Share a time when you had to teach or learn this truth. How often have you had to face the reality of death in your own experience?

Putting the Passage to Work

1. Look closely at vs. 3. When Christ died, you died, too. And when Christ rose, you rose, too. This is true because you place your trust that when He died and rose, it counted for you. In what sense, then, is your life "hidden with Christ in God?"
2. Look at vss. 5-9. From the list of habitual sins Paul provides, which have been recurring problems in the past for you? Which are still around? What does it mean to you when Paul says we must put these sins to death (vs. 5)?
3. We must also put to death our old selves (vs. 9). Inside of each of us is a sinner, an old unregenerate leftover from the original fall into sin. Do you see signs of this old self in you? How exactly does one take off this old self? How do you do it? What really regenerates you?

Digging Deeper

1. This passage presents being born again as not a one-time-only event but an on-going, even daily experience of being renewed by Christ and His Spirit. What can we do to be more intentional about dying to self and rising to Jesus Christ?
2. In what way(s) do you relate your baptism to these verses? See Romans 6:3-4.
3. Sometimes churches need to a program or ministry to death. Can you give an example of a funeral that might need to be held for some "dead" program at your church?
4. Notice the result of all this dying and rising going on in our lives as Christians. See vs. 10. In what ways do you most often reflect the nature and attributes of Your Creator?
5. Close with prayer.