

Theme: All of us by nature were walking dead to God in our sin, but He has made His people alive to God in Christ.

I. Intro – The Walking Dead

- A. Tim - TV show The Walking Dead is in Woodbury
- B. Not into zombies, but I watched it to see
- C. Now zombies are in the news everywhere!
- D. The bizarre incident in Florida
- E. Zombie ammunition
- F. Houses to survive the zombie apocalypse
- G. Scripture - no zombies - but metaphor of living dead
- H. We will look at several uses of this metaphor

II. Fallen Humanity - Walking Dead to God

- A. The dead refers to the spiritually dead
 - 1. The dead hear and live (John 5:25)
 - 2. Time is coming and now is - happening now (v25)
 - 3. Physical Resurrection only in future (John 5:28-29)
 - 4. The dead vs. in their graves (John 5:25, 28-29)
 - 5. V24 - eternal life in present is in view; same in v25
- B. This metaphor is common in Scripture
 - 1. Ezekiel 37 - valley of dry bones
 - 2. Isaiah 55:3 - hear and live - implies we are dead
 - 3. 1 John 3:14 - passed from death to life; remain in death

- 4. Col 2:13 - dead in transgressions & sin

C. Our natural state - the walking dead

- 1. Sometimes fiction imitates reality
- 2. The living dead is a regular theme - vampires, zombies
- 3. The reality is worse - we really are dead!
- 4. This is the natural state of all us - Bob Dylan lyrics

III. Regeneration - The Walking Dead Live

- A. The promise of life for the walking dead
 - 1. John 5:24-25 - The walking dead can live!
 - 2. Ezekiel 37:5-6 - the dry bones can live!
- B. God raises the walking dead to life
 - 1. John 5:24-25 - Raised by Jesus' word
 - 2. Ezekiel 37:5-6 - Sovereign Lord makes them live
 - 3. Colossians 2:13 - God raises the dead to life
 - 4. John 3:3-5 - Can't see Kingdom unless born again by Spirit
- C. God raises the walking dead through His powerful Word
 - 1. John 5:24-25 - Raised by Jesus' **word**
 - 2. Ezekiel 37:3-5 - Ezekiel must prophesy the command
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 1:21 - God saves through preaching
 - 4. Romans 10:17 - faith comes from hearing the Word
 - 5. Ezekiel 37:7-9 - We must speak forth God's Word!!!

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Are you still “the walking dead”?
 - 1. This is the natural position of all of us at birth
 - 2. You can't save yourself - any more than a zombie!
 - 3. You must be rescued from outside of yourself
 - 4. The only one who can change this is God
 - 5. Have you heard the voice of Jesus calling?
 - 6. Do you believe He is the Way, the Truth, the Life?
 - 7. Come taste and see He is good!
- B. Are you speaking the Word to the walking dead?
 - 1. Only God can change them - it is beyond us
 - 2. But He calls us to speak His Word like Ezekiel
 - 3. Are we speaking it to our walking dead friends?
 - 4. Speak - even if it seems like nothing is happening
 - 5. God's Word is powerful - He uses it to raise them!
- C. Are you grateful for having been raised by Christ?
 - 1. If you are no longer the walking dead - thank Him!
 - 2. Worship vibrantly each Sunday - you are alive!
- D. Eucharist - Giving thanks for our resurrection life!

Give ear and come to me; **hear me, that your soul may live.** I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. Isaiah 55:3

We know that **we have passed from death to life,** because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love **remains in death.** 1 John 3:14

When **you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature,** God made you alive with Christ. Colossians 2:13

I was blinded by the devil, born already ruined Stone-cold dead as I stepped out of the womb - Bob Dylan

5 This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: **I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life.** 6 I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and **you will come to life.** Then you will know that I am the LORD.” Ezekiel 37:5–6

5 This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: **I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life.** 6 I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and **you will come to life.** Then you will know that I am the LORD.” Ezekiel 37:5–6

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, **God made you alive with Christ.** Colossians 2:13

3 In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, **no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.**” 4 “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!” 5 Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, **no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.**” John 3:3–5

3 He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I said, “O Sovereign LORD, you alone know.” 4 Then he said to me, “**Prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!**” 5 This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. Ezek. 37:3–5

For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, **God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.** 1 Corinthians 1:21

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded. And **as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone.** 8 I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, **but there was no breath in them.** 9 Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” Ezekiel 37:7-9

I was blinded by the devil, born already ruined Stone-cold dead as I stepped out of the womb By His grace I have been touched By His word I have been healed By His hand I've been delivered By His spirit I've been sealed Now I'm saved, by the blood of the Lamb Yes,I'm saved, by the blood of the Lamb And I'm so glad Yes, I'm so glad - Bob Dylan “Saved”