

Malady: We are born spiritually dead, and we would stay that way if God the Holy Spirit didn't intervene on our behalf.

Telic Note: The Holy Spirit tells us how to have real life on earth, and eternal life hereafter.

Propositional Statement: The Holy Spirit makes us sons of God whereby he gives us a Christian life on earth and eternal life in heaven.

Theme: The Holy Spirit Gives Us Life

I. Christian Life in this world

II. Eternal Life in heaven

Introduction: Why did you come to church this morning? Let that question sink in a little. Why did YOU come to church this morning? I'm not asking you what you think the Bible's answer is, or what my answer might be. Nor am I asking why you WANT to come to church. Why DID you come to church?

There are more than a few answers to that question. "My mom and dad made me come." "It's what I do on Sundays." "To hear God's Word." "To give my prayers, offerings, and praise to God." Certainly those are all honest answers. Yet if you listen carefully, each of those answer hinges on what WE do. Hmmmm.

We are pretty fickle. One week we feel like coming to church. The next Sunday our sinful nature convinces us that we have something better to do. Or more likely, the devil supplies you with a "legitimate reason" for missing church.

Why DO we come to church? The answer lies in this part of God's Word before us this morning. Perhaps not surprisingly, it has nothing to do with us, and everything to do with God the Holy Spirit.

If you had no other part of the Bible, but only these verses of Romans 8, you would still have enough to know not only the one way to heaven, but also the answer to the question I posed.

In Romans 8 we hear about the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit tells us that we are God's children. In fact, it is the Holy Spirit who makes us children of God. The Holy Spirit, through baptism and the Word of God, took our dead bodies and souls and made us really alive for the first time in our lives.

Today, we will learn that The Holy Spirit Gives Us Life. Yes, he gives us eternal life in heaven, but he also gives us a Christian life in this world.

Please give your attention to what God has to say to you in his Word. Then by the end of the sermon, you will know the answer to the question, "Why did you come to church today?"

I. Christian Life in this world

You once were dead and would not come to church. Oh, you may have been dragged there, by parents, by your spouse or a friend or your neighbor. Or some of you were dragged to church,

so to speak, by your guilty conscience. When you're spiritually dead, that's when you sit there not paying attention, that's when you can't wait for church to be over, that's when you're bored in church or when your mind wanders. Hey, hold the phone, Pastor, that describes ME!

Are you spiritually dead? We all are! Each one of us is born into this world spiritually dead. We are dead in our sins. We are dead in our trespasses. We are dead and completely helpless. God tells us about our natural spiritual condition. He confirms our worst fears. We have "mortal bodies" bodies that are subject to death. In other words, we are as good as dead.

It's a no brainer that spiritually dead people have no love for God, or for his Word, or for coming to church. And sadly, we are those who are spiritually dead! It shows in our sinful attitudes towards worship, that disgusting "I-could-take-it-or-leave-it" mentality that so many people have, even Christians.

God rightly should destroy us for our sins. He would be justified if he sent us each to hell. Some for pathetic church attendance. Others for your lack of attention when you are here. And others for your false sense of pride that you never miss.

God chose instead to remedy our lost condition. God acted to take us who were dead and make us alive. How? Our answers, "The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you." "He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you." As God raised Christ from the dead, God has raised each of us from death to life!

Application: It says it right here in plain English, in black and white, in words even little children can understand: "The Spirit ... is living in you. He ... will give life to your mortal bodies."

The Holy Spirit lives in you, who once were dead, so that now you live! Things are different for you. God says, "Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation - but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."

We don't go from life to death; the Holy Spirit brought us from death to life! We now live the Christian life God gave us. We "put to death the misdeeds of the body." We "live, because [we] are led by the Spirit of God."

The Holy Spirit Gives Us Life, this Christian life. How was it that you were baptized? God had your parents bring you. How was it that you know God and trust him and love him? God told you all about himself in his Word in Sunday School and through your parents' patient and careful instruction. How it is that you find yourself in church this morning?

Transition: So far, we've only scratched the surface of this

text. The Holy Spirit gives us a Christian life in this world. He also gives us ...

II. Eternal Life in heaven

The Holy Spirit gives us the package deal. Coupled with new life in Christ in this world, we also possess eternal life in heaven. Listen to God in his Word, "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father. Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.'"

God adopted us into his family. He made us his own. We are children of God, brothers and sisters with Christ himself. We will inherit eternal life!

This news gives us strength to face to evils of each new day. God promises us, "For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of son ship.'"

Our earthly woes cannot discourage us, because we are bound for heaven. Our sufferings share in the sufferings of Christ. And our text says, "Our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.'"

Conclusion: The Holy Spirit Gives Us Life, a Christian life, and eternal life. He lives in us. He gives us life. He makes us God's children. He makes us heirs of eternal life.

The question I asked each of you at the beginning of the sermon was, "Why DID you come to church this morning?" No it really didn't have anything to do with you. It was a matter of life and death. You once were dead and would not come to church. But the Holy Spirit gave you life. In your new Christian life, the Spirit moves you to gladly hear God's Word.

So if anyone asks you why you go to church. Tell them, "The Holy Spirit gave me life. I'm simply living it." Amen.