Ephesians 2:1-10

August 8, 2015

**Death to Rebirth**

1. We all start life as dead people-we just don’t know it.

*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,**in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world…* **Ephesians 2:1-2**

1. Rebirth is a necessity for spiritual life.

*But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions…* **Ephesians 2:4-5**

1. You have a story of grace through faith or you can begin one today.

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God* **Ephesians 2:8**

1. We are called to lead people from death to life.

*For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

**Ephesians 2:10**

Action

**Begin each morning with this prayer:**

*Lord,*

*I know I need to grow.*

*Help me take my next step.*

 *So I will mature my faith in you*

*Amen.*

**Read study verse for the day.**

**Mediate on these questions:**

Where can you see your death when apart from Jesus?

Have you been reborn? What are your thoughts regarding that phrase?

How can your walk with God impact those around you?

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday John 3:3**
* **Tuesday Romans 10:9**
* **Wednesday 1 Peter 1:3**
* **Thursday 2 Corinthians 5:17**
* **Friday Acts 2:38**
* **Saturday Titus 3:5**

*The word of God is living and active sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

**Hebrews 4:12**

1 Corinthians 3:1-4

August 16, 2015

**Spiritual Infancy**

1. Babies are cute, but they need to grow up.

*Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit, but as people who are still worldly-mere infants in Christ.* **1 Corinthians 3:1**

1. Spiritual infants know their salvation but struggle with Truth.

*I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. In deed you are still not ready.* **1 Corinthians 3:2**

1. Their lives are not much different from the world…yet.

*You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you are you not worldly?* **1 Corinthians 3:3**

1. Growing in Christ means being more than just human.

*Are you not acting like mere human beings?* **1 Corinthians 3:3**

Action

**Begin each morning with this prayer:**

*Lord,*

*I know I need to grow.*

*Help me take my next step.*

 *So I will mature my faith in you*

*Amen.*

**Read study verse for the day.**

**Mediate on these questions:**

What do you want more of in order to grow in your faith?

Is the way you act much different now than it was before you knew Jesus?

Have you ever thought that there is a new way to be human?

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Colossians 1:9-10**
* **Tuesday 2 Peter 3:18**
* **Wednesday 1 Peter 2:1-25**
* **Thursday Matthew 5:6**
* **Friday Ephesians 4:15-16**
* **Saturday Psalm 1**

*The word of God is living and active sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

**Hebrews 4:12**

 1 Peter 1:5-8

August 23, 2015

**Acting Like Children**

1. Children must have parents-otherwise they never grow up.

*His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.* **1 Peter 1:3**

1. It is imperative that we learn to actively increase our faith.

*For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith…* **1 Peter 1:5-6**

1. We all must learn to be part of a family.

*…and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.* **1 Peter 1:7**

1. Our growth means life for others

*For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.* **1 Peter 1:8**

Action

**Begin each morning with this prayer:**

*Lord,*

*I know I need to grow.*

*Help me take my next step.*

 *So I will mature my faith in you*

*Amen.*

**Read study verse for the day.**

**Mediate on these questions:**

Who is a spiritual parent to you? What have you learned from them?

What do you do to actively increase your faith?

Do you consider yourself to be part of a church family?

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday 2 Timothy 3:16-17**
* **Tuesday Philippians 4:13**
* **Wednesday James 1**
* **Thursday 1 Corinthians 11:1**
* **Friday Titus 2:11-14**
* **Saturday Philippians 1:6**

*The word of God is living and active sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

**Hebrews 4:12**

 Matthew 17:14-21

August 30, 2015

**Learning From The Master**

1. Though the world has rejected God-they need Him.

*When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him.* **Matthew 17:14**

1. We must step into opportunities to care.

*I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him.* **Matthew 17:16**

1. People who want to learn don’t tell you what they know-they ask questions.

*Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?* **Matthew 17:19**

1. Faith with action will change the world.

*If you have faith as small as a mustard seed...nothing will be impossible for you.* **Matthew 17:20-21**

Action

**Begin each morning with this prayer:**

*Lord,*

*I know I need to grow.*

*Help me take my next step.*

 *So I will mature my faith in you*

*Amen.*

**Read study verse for the day.**

**Mediate on these questions:**

When do you see people reaching out for God?

How can you represent God when people are in need of Him?

Where do you need to stretch your faith?

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Hebrews 11:1**
* **Tuesday James 2:14-17**
* **Wednesday James 2:18**
* **Thursday Colossians 3:23-24**
* **Friday 1 Timothy 6:18-19**
* **Saturday Luke 10:33-37**

*The word of God is living and active sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

**Hebrews 4:12**