

A Matter of Life and Death (Romans 6:1-7)

Introduction: *Have you ever had a 'near death experience'?*

I. OUR NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE COMES THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

- A. This faith comes by hearing His Holy Word
- B. This faith comes by the waters of Holy Baptism (Romans 6:1-7)
- C. We celebrate both today on our *New Members Sunday!*

II. TODAY WE'LL CONSIDER OUR BAPTISMS BY EXAMINING FOUR "DEATH SAYINGS"

A. "Dead & Buried"

1. This is seen at the cemetery on a gravestone
2. This is seen at the place where you are baptized: dead to sin & alive in Christ

B. "Wanted: Dead or Alive"

1. This is seen on 'wanted posters' in cowboy movies
2. This is seen when God meet us in baptism: He wants us dead and alive (Rom. 6:1-7)

C. "Until Death us Do Part"

1. This is heard at weddings in the pledge made by husband & wife
2. In baptism, God pledges His faithfulness to us unto death & beyond death!
3. In a lesser way at our baptism, we too, pledge our faithfulness

D. "The Living Dead"

1. This refers to imaginary creatures called "zombies" in movies
2. There are people today who are physically alive, but spiritually dead
3. They are "*dead men walking*" [Like in the Hollywood movie of the same name]
4. By His Word & in Baptism, God makes us dead to sin & alive in Christ (Rom.6:1-7)

Conclusion: C.P.R. – *cardio-pulmonary-resuscitation and Christ-powered-resurrection!*

[It's a matter of life & death]

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