



SERMON OUTLINE FOR EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2014

“The Cure for Death”

Romans 5:12-17

INTRODUCTION: *The theme song for London’s 17th century black death plague – “Ring Around the Rosies . . . we all fall down”*

I. YES, WE ALL FALL DOWN IN DEATH

- A. God told Adam in Eden’s garden (Genesis 3:19)
- B. St. Paul tells us that through Adam death comes to us all (Romans 5:12)
- C. We all do “fall down” and throughout Holy Scripture, God does not soften the reality

II. OUR INITIAL RESPONSE TO DEATH IS DENIAL OR AVOIDANCE

- A. Yet, trying to deny death is about as helpful as singing “ring around the rosies”
- B. Satan lied to Adam & Eve about death (Genesis 3:4)

- C. There are three modern “philosophies of death” that really are not new, but are described in the Old Testament Book of Ecclesiastes
 1. FATALISM (the doctrine of despair) – 3:1-9
 2. SKEPTICISM (nothing can be known for sure) – 3:10-11
 3. EPICUREANISM (eat, drink & be merry, today is all you have) – 3:12-13
 4. DEISM (God sees but is not involved, so just do the best you can) – 3:14-17
 5. EVOLUTIONISM (there’s no difference between a man & an animal) – 3:18-19
 6. UNIVERSALISM (just be sincere, everyone goes to heaven) – 3:20
- D. God has His own appraisal of such philosophies: *NOPE!* (Proverbs 14:12)

III. GOD HAS PROVIDED THE ONLY CURE FOR DEATH: VICTORY OVER THE GRAVE

- A. In Jesus Christ we are given (Romans 5:12-17)
 1. God’s love
 2. Payment for our sin
 3. Reconciliation with God
 4. Salvation now & to life eternal
- B. And besides all of that we are given death’s cure: Victory! (1 Corinthians 15:55-58)
- C. Death is our defeated enemy and now just a doorway to resurrection
- D. And --- what about those who live by one of the above mistaken philosophies? (Consider three examples: Voltaire, Hemmingway, & Ingersoll)
- E. Facing death without Jesus Christ is like singing – “*ring around the rosies...*”

CONCLUSION:

Sitting with a new widow singing “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” (We sure did not sing ring around any rosies!)