

## "DEAD, BURIED & ALIVE!"

**TEXT:** I Cor.15:1-8

**THESIS:** To show how wrong everyone was to pronounce Jesus dead...He Who was life could not stay dead.

**INTRO.:** A. When someone dies someone - doctor, coroner or other official – must pronounce him or her dead. There have been cases - even recently – where horrifying mistakes have been made. Coffins are dug up with the inside lining clawed to shreds by the "dead" person trying to escape. "Corpses" have suddenly sat up in hospital beds & asked for something to eat or while being prepared for embalming the "cadaver" asks "Where am I?"

B. A premature pronouncement of Jesus' death took place on Good Friday. Not that He wasn't really dead...He was. It was just that He had repeatedly promised that He wouldn't stay dead...& He didn't. He had told His followers that He would die shortly. He hadn't done anything worthy of death, but He knew He would die. He knew He would die soon, that He would be falsely accused, that He should be scourged. He knew the city where He would die, that the religious leaders would be instrumental in His death, that one of His hand-picked disciples would betray Him & He knew He would die by crucifixion - a Roman method of execution for non-Roman criminals of the very worst type.

### I. CRUCIFIXION DAY (THE DARK DAY OF HIS DEATH):

A. The Roman Soldiers Pronounced Him Dead:

1. The callous, professional soldiers, gamblers at the foot of His cross...those who drove the spikes in His quivering hands & pain- jerked feet & were splattered by His sinless blood said **"He is dead!"**

B. The Jeering Crowds Pronounced Him Dead:

1. The frenzied mob of curiosity seekers & pleasure drunk, mindless mass of humanity who treated crucifixion as we treat a sporting event said: "He is dead!" (*That's because it's Crucifixion Day!*)

C. The Puppet Procurator Pilate Pronounced Him Dead: (Mk.15:44)

1. He who had a chance to befriend Jesus & release Him but chose the friendship of Caesar over the King of Kings, called one of his centurions to enquire about Jesus' crucifixion as said: **"He is dead!"** (*That's because it's Crucifixion Day!*)

D. The Roman Centurion Who Supervised the Gory Scene at Calvary Pronounced Him Dead: (Lk.23:47)

1. This hardened veteran heard His final cries of agony & recognized Him as the Son of God said: **"He is dead!"** (*...Crucifixion Day!*)

E. The Superstitious Sadducees Pronounced Him Dead:

1. They who had ignored His claims to Deity, rejected the supernatural & scorned any hope of everlasting life said **"Good riddance, He is dead!"** (*...Crucifixion Day!*)

F. The Pathetic Pharisees Pronounced Him Dead:

1. These prating religious pretenders with gloating gladness in triumphant tones said: **"He is dead!"** (...Crucifixion Day!)

G. The High Priest Caiaphas Pronounced Him Dead:

1. He whose envy had blinded him to the Scriptures & their prophecies of the Messiah, who oversaw the sacrifices in the Temple which pictured the One hanging on the Cross that day said: **"He is dead!"** (...Crucifixion Day!)

H. Night-Visitor Nicodemus & Just Joseph of Arimathaea Pronounced Him Dead:

1. The man to whom Jesus spoke of being born-again & Jesus' rich friend & follower both said: **"He is dead!"** (...Crucifixion Day!)

I. His Human Mother Mary Pronounced Him Dead:

1. With hot scalding tears streaming down her face, and the prophesied sword of Simeon piercing her heart, she watched the life-blood & life-giving blood pouring from His wounds and she cried: **"He is dead!"** (...Crucifixion Day!)

J. His Despairing Disciples Pronounced Him Dead:

1. Those who knew Him most intimately, loved Him most deeply, were now in hiding, disappointed in Him & in themselves had given up hope of deliverance from Rome & forgot His promises of a greater deliverance, said: **"He is dead!"** (...Crucifixion Day!)

**QUOTES:** "Him who is to history's best character as light to darkness, as blessing to cursing, as a lily to a thistle, as snow to soot, as Heaven to earth, as holiness to sin, as life to death they named as a dead man."

"Then in upper rooms, in dark retreats, in secret hiding places, behind locked doors, on lonely roads, His followers, in fear said "We hoped it was He Who would have redeemed Israel.

"Hearing terrors very near in every sound, seeing lurking foes in every shadow, startled at the sound of every unfamiliar voice, they found their mental geography changed.

"A huge chasm - a chasm vast, abysmal, dark, deep - yawned between them & their fondest hopes. "The throne of their Beloved had disappeared in a tomb. "His Kingdom had shrunk to the narrow dimensions of a grave. "His regal robes were now as shroud. "His only scepter - a weed, with which they smote Him on the head. "His only crown - a crown of thorns. "His only coronation acclaim, the spit they flung through sneering lips, their contempt materialized into a liquid. "His only throne - a blood splotted cross. "His only emblems of royal insignia - the marks of the scourge upon His naked back. "His only inaugural speech - a lonely cry. "His only coronation companions - two thieves. "His only reign - the six hours of torture on the bloody tree. "His only cup - a sponge filled w/vinegar & gall." R.G. Lee

They didn't say it in so many words...but they thought it. **"He is dead!"** And **He WAS dead!** And **He WAS buried**...but that's because *it's Crucifixion Day!*

## **II. RESURRECTION DAY (THE RESPLENDENCE OF HIS RESURRECTION):**

A. He Died **"According to the Scriptures" v.3**

B. He Was Buried **"According to the Scriptures" v.4**

C. He Is Alive Forevermore **"According to the Scriptures' v.4**

1. Peter (Cephas) who denied Him w/cursing's during his trial & went into hiding during His crucifixion saw the resurrected Savior: *(That's because it's Resurrection Day!)* v.5a

2. His disciples (**"the twelve"** - now **"the eleven"!**) who had fled from Him during His hour of greatest need & loneliness had the resurrected Savior appear to them: *(That's because it's Resurrection Day!)* v.5b

3. 500 of His followers who were fearful that all was lost & that they too might be crucified with him, who had gone underground, perplexed & apprehensive on Crucifixion had the living Christ appear to them: *(That's because it's Resurrection Day!)* v.6

**ILLUS.:** These who feared for their lives were still alive at the time of documentation when Paul penned this epistle & were now living on the hope of His resurrection & eternal life. Others had since passed away (**"fallen asleep"**) & found that death was no longer an enemy, but a friend!

4. Even Paul, who had not had the privilege of the other Apostles of ministering with the Savior during His earthly ministry had Christ appear to Him in His resurrected form: *(That's because it's Resurrection Day!)* v.8

**CONCL.:** What a difference these days make! Are you living in the blackness & bleakness of Crucifixion Day or the brightness & glory of Resurrection Day?! You too must die with Christ if you are to experience Resurrection life. **"DEAD, BURIED & ALIVE!"** should be your epitaph too!