

Millions Now Living Are Dead

Ephesians 2:1-3

Introduction: A prominent cult once offered a book with the title “Millions Now Living Will Never Die.” Time soon proved the premise of this book to be in error. It counted on the imminent return of the Lord and these millions being inhabiting a new earth. Didn’t happen.

Nevertheless, these passages do confirm our title. Perhaps we could change the number to billions. Why are they dead? Can anything be done to eliminate this death?

I. Who Are The Dead?

- A. Not physically dead, but spiritually dead.
 - 1. **“The wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23).**
 - 2. **“All have sinned” (Rom. 3:23).**
 - 3. Jesus said, **“Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead” (Matt. 8:22).**
 - a. The spiritually dead can bury the physically dead.
 - b. More important work for Christians—Follow Jesus.
 - 4. Responsibility for sins lays upon those who commit sins (**Isa. 59:2**).
- B. Examples.
 - 1. One who live sin pleasure (**1 Tim. 5:6**).
 - a. True even of professed Christians.
 - b. Put worldly matters first rather than kingdom (**Matt. 6:33**).
 - 2. The church at Sardis (**Rev. 3:1**).
 - a. Possible to be dead and not even know it.
 - b. This makes this extremely important.

II. Evidence Of A Remedy.

- A. **“You He made alive” {“quicken”, KJV} (v. 1, see also Col. 2:13).**
 - 1. Whatever the remedy, it has to deal with sin.
 - 2. forgiveness of sins a must.
 - a. Blood of Christ shed for remission of sins (**Matt. 26:28**).
A possibility.
 - b. Baptism into Christ brings remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**).
A reality.
- B. Alive—a new creature in Christ (**2 Cor. 5:17**).

Chart

The dead

In trespasses and sins
Walked like world
In lock-step with Satan
Followed lust of flesh
Followed fleshly desires
Children of wrath

The living (quickenened)

Sins are forgiven (**Acts 2:38**)
Separated from world (**2 Cor. 6:17-18**)
Have overcome (**1 Jn. 5:4**)
Follow Spirit (**Rom. 8:1-4**)
Renewed (**Rom. 12:2**)
Children of God (**Rom. 8:16-17**)

Conclusion: To be among the living one needs to obey the gospel. To avoid death, do it now. Be one of those who are promised **“by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2 Peter 1:4).**