

Earth the Great Burial Ground

Introduction

One day as I was driving down the road, the Holy Spirit began to share with my heart concerning a view of the earth as it relates to the Cross of Christ. Quite simply, I saw the earth as a big burial ground rather than the land of promise! In my own personal walk I was crying out to the Lord for freedom not just in certain areas, but from me!!! I knew that I had heard all the answers and needed to look no further than the Cross. But somehow I was not applying those answers effectively. And so the things in this booklet came from what the Lord shared with me during that time. I know it is only the Holy Spirit Who can make any of this real to someone's heart, for the scriptures clearly share these things with the perfection of Divine Inspiration.

*This book can be used as a supplement for teachers concerning "Day Two" of the "You Can Be A Butterfly" teaching manual. It may help the teacher become more aquatinted with the day two process of the cocoon and burial.

The Necessity of a Ruth-Heart

There is a journey we must make that requires a certain heart determination. This is a journey of identification called the renewing of the mind. It is the process of leaving the old man dead and buried so that we might join unto our new risen Husband and be fruitful. The story of Ruth gives us a clear picture of this process and the heart that is behind it.

Three women left the country of Moab mourning the deaths of their husbands. Two of the women had opportunity to return and find rest in the house of their dead husbands. Both of these women cried and affectionately pledged to continue forward into the house of bread (Bethlehem) with their mother-in-law who was of the house of Israel, rather than return to the house of their dead husbands. Twice they cried out and wept over this situation. One young woman even kissed her mother-in-law, but still ended up returning to her dead husband's house. Only Ruth, a Moabitess herself, would cleave and not let go of her new identity and the woman who would lead her into it. This is her pledge and heart determination, *"Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for wither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgedst I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God. Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried.... The Lord do so to me and more also if ought but death part thee and me"* (Ruth 1:16-17). In their journey Naomi and Ruth are bound together in the Cross, they walk in a covenant of death and burial as they cleave to an identity that can only be found in Christ.

It is important to notice that all three of these women had dead husbands. All three of them were on a journey to the Land of Promise to find bread that could appease their

hunger, for Moab was in famine. Yet with all these things being true, one of these women was still able to return to the home of her dead husband. The element that was missing in this woman (named Orpah) was that she did not cleave to Naomi (her mother-in-law) in both death and burial. Naomi, an Israelite of the tribe of Judah, represented the people of God. Because Orpah was related to Naomi, Orpah had an opportunity to embrace a new identity in the Land of Promise. Like Orpah, we can relate passionately to the thought of entering into our new life, and yet without cleaving to the Cross we will still return to the house of our dead husband. This holds great significance to those of us today who want to enter into the fullness of Christ and leave the old man behind. Even though the old man is dead and the Land of Promise is ours, there is a journey we must make in the renewing of our minds. We must bury our old identity in the death of Christ where we were crucified. There comes a time when we must fully put away from our heart and identity the old man who is dead. If we do not, even though he is dead, we cannot journey forward. A complete and utter end to the old has come through the Cross of Christ, and we must embrace that.

I begin this booklet with this story to show the kind of heart determination that will be necessary for someone to really make a break with the old man. Obviously weeping and crying and making strong commitments did not prevent one young woman from returning to the house of her dead husband. Only Ruth, was able to make the full transition out of her old life and into her new life of fruitfulness in the Land of Promise. She embraced the work of the Cross in both death and burial. Ruth left her dead husband and his place in Moab. She would not dwell in his realm any longer. This story is an example for us. It helps define how we must reckon the old man dead and leave the earth as our dwelling place. It shows us not just the doctrine of reckoning our old man dead, but the “drama” surrounding the daily decisions we must make to not return to our old identity. We must steadfastly cleave to the Word of the Cross that declares the old man is crucified with Christ. We must “stay the course” like Ruth did. She would not let go and would not turn back. The work of the Cross must become that precious to us. If it is just powerful teaching that moves us to tears, then we are still in danger of responding like Orpah and returning once again to the old man’s realm of death. In our journey and walk in Christ, every step of the way must be filled with “cleaving to the Cross of Christ” where our old man was crucified and buried.

Ruth so lost her old identity that she was no longer under the curse that prohibited a Moabite from entering the congregation until the tenth generation (Deut. 23:3). We know that Ruth was accepted in her generation, for she was the great-grandmother of King David. This could only happen because in her heart she was not a Moabite anymore. She had left her old identity dead and buried in Moab and was made one with Boaz, becoming a mother in the house of Israel. The same is true concerning our relationship with Christ. We are no longer of the flesh and the old man but have been joined to the risen Christ and now we bring forth fruit unto God by Him (Romans 7:4).

We cannot identify with our dead husband and still bring forth fruit unto God (Rom. 7:3). We must leave him buried in Moab and find our new life in Boaz (in Christ). If the land of our dead husband still lives in our hearts, then we will eventually loosen our faith-grip on the work of the Cross and find ourselves returning to our old life. Our determination to embrace the Cross must extend beyond the altar call at a church service and motivate every step of our journey. Every place we put our feet must be filled with “Ruth Heart” that will find no life outside of Boaz. In that sense, the earth will no longer be the place of “finding our life” but of reckoning the old life dead and buried until Boaz (Christ) appears and we become established in Him and fruitful. Thus, the earth becomes the place of losing the old identity and reckoning it dead and buried in Christ.

A Time To Disappear

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: Likewise reckon you also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord”
(Romans 6:3,4a,11).

There is a time for appearing and a time for disappearing, but what does that mean? To understand what that means could save us a lot of confusion. It is not time for us to “appear” in our heart identity when it is our flesh that is manifesting. When the old life presents itself before us and manifests through us, that is the time to disappear by reckoning that old man dead because he was crucified with Christ (Rom. 6:6). Bury him out of your sight! Realize that our old life was not only crucified but buried with Christ (Rom. 6:4). The burial is meant to put that dead corpse away forever. When that fleshly man appears in our attitudes and responses, we are not supposed to kill him again or identify with him, we are to reckon him dead and bury him out of the realm of our identity. In the Old Testament you would become defiled if you touched a dead corpse. Putting it plainly, don’t touch the old man by identifying with him!! When he appears, you disappear and hide your identity in Christ alone while reckoning the whole mess of the old life dead and buried with Christ.

Until Christ appears we have not yet found our appearing (Col. 3:4). Only when Christ appears in us as He is unveiled to be our Life do we identify with what is appearing! Until Christ is revealed in us we do not really know who we are in the new creation. We will tend to identify with our old nature until we begin to comprehend and embrace the work of the Cross. This process of embracing our new identity as one with Jesus must begin even before Christ is revealed in us and before His fruit manifests through us. Our journey to “Boaz” cannot even begin until we make the heart determination to reckon our old man dead.

Remain In Burial

The word “appear” in the scriptures also means “manifest”. When it is our flesh that is “appearing or manifesting” we must know that this nature is not our new identity in Christ. During this time period before Christ comes forth in manifestation we must yet abide in Him and remain identified only in His life. But how do we do that when outwardly all we see is our old nature manifesting everywhere? Well, that is the time to “disappear”. I am not talking about joining a monastery in the mountains and taking a vow of silence, but I am referring to the way of proceeding before Christ manifestly comes forth through us. Colossians 3:4 says, “*When the Life of the risen body of Christ appears, then we discover our identity is with Him in glorious oneness.*” Until that life appears we have not yet fully discovered our identity. Until that identity is fully apprehended through the unveiling of Christ as our life, we must function through faith in the operation of God that has cut off the old man (Col. 2:12). At this point in time the earth is not the place of manifesting Christ but of burying our old identity. It is time to disappear in our identification and be hid in Christ until He who is our life appears (Col3:3).

Rock of Ages Cleft For Me, I Will Hide Myself in Thee

Jesus Christ, the Rock of our identity, was slain so that we could hide ourselves in Him. Our refuge in Christ is solid and sure, for we are settled in His heart. Through His death God put away our old life, and in His resurrection God made us one with Himself in newness of Life. We can abide in the refuge of the cleft Rock of the Crucified Christ through the worst storm of our flesh. From our position of safety in Him we can endure the harshest of trials and personal lack without once having to leave our identity as one with Jesus. We cannot afford to come out of the Stronghold of Jesus to identify with our old self-life under any circumstance. God’s Son made Himself our hiding place. In Him we find refuge from a life that is separate from Jesus. Our new identity is sealed in the bosom of the risen Christ. Nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ. He makes all things new by becoming the newness of all things. It is our part only to abide in Him and receive the word of His heart that declares our new identity as one with Himself. In the darkness of our own barrenness we have blessed comfort in knowing that we are sealed in total acceptance as one with the risen Son.

Knowing THIS!

*“Knowing THIS, that our old man is
crucified with Him” (Rom. 6:6a).*

There is a whole bunch of stuff we can know all about and become distracted with. For example, we can know just how much the old sin nature still manifests through us. We can know just how horrible we feel about our condition at times. We can know how desperate and without hope we are in the flesh. But the bible exhorts us to specifically know THIS; that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be

destroyed. We are not to know and identify with how much the old man appears in our daily experience, but rather we are to actively and through the power of the Holy Spirit KNOW that the old man is crucified with Christ (Rom. 6:6). If we spent all our time knowing THIS, then we would not waste our time identifying with a dead corpse that must be reckoned as such. We must embrace Christ and Him crucified rather than our own wretchedness! Only Christ delivers us from the body of sin and death (Rom. 7:24-25). “Knowing” is a continual awareness of our death with Christ in such a way that will constantly affect our identity. It goes beyond head knowledge and reaches into our heart identity.

We Come Forth When He Comes Forth

It can be tempting at times to come forth before Christ comes forth. What good would Lazarus have been if he wandered out from his tomb before the Resurrection Himself commanded him to come forth? It would have been a stinky odor of flesh rather than a sweet savor of Christ! We must keep all that is of the old in burial until the Resurrection Himself brings us forth in newness of life.

There is intimacy of heart in abiding by faith with Christ in His death and burial. We love the Lord and should be WITH Him at all times, whether that be in death, burial, or resurrection. Our joy is in knowing that we are abiding as one with Him in all things. Even when the flowers have not yet appeared on the earth, there is always a garden in the heart of Jesus wherein we can find acceptance and love through all seasons.

Know That You Are Planted Into His Death

“For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection” (Romans 6:5).

“Mortify, therefore, your members which are upon the earth...” (Col. 3:5).

Through active faith in the finished work of the Cross we must plant all of the old into the death of Christ and bury it there. This has already happened in Christ, but we must submit our mind and circumstances to that reality by exercising our faith in the Cross of Christ. We must submit every contrary thing to the knowledge of God (II Cor. 10:5). Rather than identifying with the flesh, we must put it in its proper place... dead in Christ. In this way we are reckoning the old man as dead rather than identifying with him. This is also referred to as the process of mortifying our flesh. Colossians 3:5 says, “Put to death (not just deny) your earth body, which manifests it’s union with the old. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth.” We are not to deny, ignore, over-power or wrestle with the old man, rather we are to put him in his place.. dead with Christ. Only by delivering all these things up to the death of Christ can we put off the old man and his deeds. In this sense, only by embracing the Cross in this very specific and active way can we put off the old man and put on the new. This could be likened unto a caterpillar putting off its old crawling body to put on the new form that is translated into a glorious

heavenly being. The caterpillar does this by remaining wrapped up in a place of death (cocoon) rather than trying to bring forth change through self-effort in himself.

It is of the utmost importance that we stay planted in His death. We must plant every contrary thought and sinful deed into His death, for they are only the fruit of the old man who was put away at Calvary. We must not uproot ourselves from abiding in this death every time our flesh appears. It is vitally important that we become so rooted and grounded into our death with Him that we cannot be moved from our faith in that death under any circumstance. It is needful that we grow into the knowledge that we are crucified with Christ that we might put off the old man and put on the new (Col. 3:10). It is important that we allow our faith to become established, and not spoil it by judging ourselves outside of the work of the Cross. Through faith in the operation of God we can believe that we were buried with Him in baptism wherein we are also risen with Him (Col. 2:12).

“Put Off” not “Put Up With”

“Put off the old man with his deeds , and put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him” (Col. 3:9b-10).

We are not supposed to crawl through life, year after year, putting up with the old man and his deeds. The day must come for each of us where we make a determination to reckon the old man dead, and plant every thought and deed into the death of Christ, leaving it buried there. In this sense we are entering into mortification, the process of putting off the old man to put on the new. Once again, this is what the caterpillar has chosen to do when he weaves his cocoon. Once we embrace this path, which is the path the Cross will take us, then we can abide in hope knowing that we will not be ashamed for the Spirit of God will shed His love abroad in our hearts (Rom. 5:5).

Until Christ our Life appears, we need to remain wrapped up in His death like a caterpillar in its cocoon! Our identity is wrapped up in the life we have received through heart-fully embracing the Cross. Our deadness, which is of the old man (the body of sin), is hidden with Christ in His death and burial. Our life is securely hid with Christ in God. Our life is preserved in Christ where thief cannot steal nor rust can eat it away. Our death is settled and sealed in the death of Christ. No sin or circumstance can change that the old man was crucified in Him. Now it is time to walk in this reality and apply it by faith to every aspect of our existence. If we don't, or only do so half-heartedly, we will live a life of frustration.

We will feel helpless, hopeless and unable to do anything until resurrection life springs forth and wings magically appear, but we must know that we can wrap up in “burial cloths” and abide hidden in His death until Christ comes forth and we find our appearing in Him Who is our Life.

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*“For Our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who shall change our lowly body, that it may be fashioned like His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself”
(Phil. 3:21).*

The whole earth is a burial ground until Christ manifests. It is a massive ball of dirt meant to bury the old man in. It is the place of hiding death. It is the place of putting away the old. It is not the place of finding our identity or laying up our treasures. We are not to find habitation here ever or to draw life from roots grown down into earthly soil. Our citizenship is in heaven. Our place of life and source of Life is from above in Christ. Until the earth becomes the place to manifest His life for others, we must not touch it or make covenants with it.

We must know that we have been planted into His death. All the old creation was planted into the death of Christ. Our roots into this old creation go no deeper than the old man that was crucified and put away forever. If you are crucified with Christ, then you have lost all vitality to draw out from the earth as a source. The only source the earth becomes is a place of planting the old man into Christ's death every time that he appears here as our identity or source. On the earth, things manifest constantly, for the earth is a place of manifestation in many ways. But until it is Christ that is manifesting on earth as He is in heavenly places, we need to bury everything that is not His appearing into the death of Christ. The earth is the place where our sinful fruit appears and so it is here that we must choose to bury it all in Christ's death.

The place of burial is not the place of resurrection. The body that was sown is not the same as the body that is raised. The first man is of the earth, earthy; but the second man is the Lord from heaven (I Cor. 15). The place of losing our life is not the place to find our life, but some love their lives in this world. We are not looking to find our life down here but actively seeking to lose our life down here so that we might find it in Christ. Our citizenship is in heaven in Christ and no longer found in the earth. Our flesh needs to be wrapped in burial cloths rather than adorned and ministered unto. The Cross happened but it must be applied through our active faith on a daily and constant level.

The Spirit of The Bride In Burial

*“Set your affections on things above, for you are dead
and your life is hid with Christ in God” (Col. 3:3).*

The earth is where we lose our life to bring forth His. The earth is for burial, not for finding our life. We only find our life IN CHRIST above the earth. Yet only those that love Him (Lamb's wife) will find Him, for only they will look in the RIGHT PLACE. They will know where to look because their affections are set above the earth and not ON it. The Bride will love His appearing and find her life in Him because she does not need

to appear with her portion down here. The temporal is not her realm of treasure, therefore she does not search the temporal realm of the earth for her treasures. She searches the House from above to find her lost coin (Lk. 15:8-9). Only in Jesus does she find all that she holds as precious. He is what is valuable to her and nothing else.

The Bride knows where to look to find Him (above). She knows where to look to find herself (in His appearing). She knows where not to find herself (in the body of death) but to allow the earth to facilitate her burial. Rather than making unions with dirt in the earth, (the Bride is not dirt but bone of His bone), she buries the dirt-man and hides in Christ's death whenever that man appears. She builds only on the Rock of the risen Christ. What does she build there? Her identity. She lays up all her treasures in Him alone.

The Bride heart makes the earth a cocoon, not a home. She does not walk here (like the caterpillar), she dies here, and is buried to this realm. Her appearance manifests only when she transforms as the creature from above that she is in God's heart in the resurrection. She is separated from the earth and joined to Christ from above. She walks as a sojourner on the earth.

The spirit of the Bride redeems the earth from absolute corruption. She has Life because she has died to this place and brought above Life down here. In Christ to her is a place where her affections are set. Because her heart has a place in Him she is free to leave the earth and allow death to work in all areas.

Death Rejected Until Treasure Is In Heaven

Hezekiah was one of Israel's best kings. He did so much to help the people of God and restore the Lord's honor in the Land. This man was responsible for bringing a conduit of water into the stronghold of Jerusalem so that even under the condition of a siege, their water would be sure (II Kings 20:20). In so many respects, this man was used powerfully by God. Yet at the end of his days when it was time for him to die... he wanted to remain alive. His motivation to continue living was not evil as some would define evil, yet because he wanted to live Hezekiah opened the door for the Babylonian captivity and brought forth one the most wicked kings to ever rule in Israel (Is. 39:6, II Kings 21:2). All of this because Hezekiah still loved his life in the earth. He had treasure down here. This is made evident through the scriptures where immediately after fifteen more years of life were granted he was found showing all his treasures in the house of God to the Babylonians (Is. 39:1-2).

Whether it be as small as a stone or as holy as a vessel from the temple, we are not to become attached to the earth or find our treasure here. If we do, even in the things of God like Hezekiah did, we will not find our place in the resurrection for fear of losing our place in the things of God in the earth. How can we truly bury something that still appears in our heart? The smallest pebble will become as a millstone around our neck if it begins to capture our affections. And yet the earth will become as light as the weight of a pebble if it no longer is where our treasure is found.

Walk As A Good Soldier

“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affair of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier” (II Tim. 2:3-4).

We become entangled in the old life, the one that was crucified and put away in Christ's death and burial. We feel bound to the earth and our own frailties because the soul of man is constantly aware of himself. We can become overwhelmed with our needs, emotions and weaknesses, but we must learn to die to them as a soldier that is carrying his weapon – the Cross. We must apply this weapon to our souls and the old man daily, never “leaving home” without it. We will either die to self or die in battle. As we cleave to this sword by embracing the preaching of the Cross, then by faith we will stand for God in the face of the enemy of our own flesh, fear and shame. We must detach, not in the sense of passivity, but by allowing the circumcision of Christ to detach us from the old man. This is not the work of the flesh, but faith working as it reckons on the finished work of the operation of God that was made without the hands of human effort. We must become armed for battle, not in the sense of overcoming sin and death, but in the reality of dealing with the old man in true knowledge and according to the victory of the Cross.

All of us will face the entangling forces of our own lives in this world. We must learn to hate our life in this world and set our affections on things above where our life is hid with Christ in God, for we are dead. We are not alive unto our flesh and the old man, we are crucified with Christ and alive unto God through Him. We must arm our mind with the reality of this and relate to the old as that which is crucified and put away forever through the Cross of Christ. Some may have great plans and visions of Kingdom expansion, but there will not be any governmental increase of Christ without the Cross overtaking all of the old that yet remains in our identity and heart. There must be a deeper application of the Cross in our lives. We must allow the second circumcision to do its work and yield to a sharp knife that can get the job done. The preaching of the Cross is the power of God to them that believe, and the Word of God is like a sharp knife able to cut asunder the old that the new may come forth. If we are dead and our Life is now Christ, then it is time to awaken from all slumber unto the reality of what is true in Him and should therefore be true in us as the very vehicle of His Life.

It is not that we in ourselves are strong, but that we choose to cleave to the finished work of the Cross, even as Ruth was found cleaving to Naomi. David had a mighty man named Eleazar the son of Dodo (II Sam. 23:9). This man cleaved to his sword as Philistine after Philistine attacked him. (A Philistine represents the flesh.) He defied the Philistine army by not letting go of the work of the Cross but wielding it as the mighty overcoming sword that it becomes in the hands of anyone who will hold it by faith and apply it to every piece of flesh that comes its way. He was much like his King, David, who also used His sword and cut off the head of Goliath, another Philistine who tried to defy the armies of the living God.

We must not drop our sword! We may grow weary and at times have no more strength to swing... but hold on to it, cleave to it and never let go of the reality that you are crucified with Christ! Being mighty in battle is simply the good fight of faith in what the operation of God has already accomplished. Our triumph is in the Lord and in His victory we must, even after having done all, stand.

In Conclusion

The final thought that I would like to present in this booklet is simply this: Where is our heart? Wherever our heart is, our treasure will be there also. We cannot let go of a life we still love. We will never surrender our old life to the work of the Cross if we are secretly holding onto it somewhere. For all the wonderful and powerful truths concerning reckoning, knowing, and mortifying to work they must be first mixed with faith that functions by love.

If our hearts are not fully in the place of separating all things unto God through His Cross, then we have the dearness of the Holy Spirit who will draw us and lift up Christ in such a way that will captivate our hearts. He longs to draw us so that we can run, even like Ruth did. We will then be good soldiers unable to become snared by the entanglements of this life. We will run the race without weights drawing us back down to the old life. We will be liberated unto our heavenly identity so that we might fully embrace the glorious new life that is even now completely ours in Christ.***

Scriptural References

Romans 6:3-6 "And do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? For we are buried together with Him by baptism into death, that as Christ is risen from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also may walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection. Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin may be destroyed, to the end that we may serve sin no longer."

Colossians 2:11-12 "In Whom also you are circumcised with circumcision not made by hand, in despoiling of the body of the flesh, but in the circumcision of Christ. Buried with Him in baptism, in Whom also you are risen again by the faith of the operation of God, Who hath raised Him up from among the dead."

Colossians 3:1-5 "If however you have risen with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, enthroned at God's right hand. Give your minds to the things that are above, not to the things that are on the earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ appears--He is our true Life--then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your earthward inclinations."

Romans 7:2-4 “For the married woman to the living husband has been bound by the law, and if the husband may die, she hath been free from the law of the husband; so then, the husband being alive, an adulteress she may be called if she may become another man’s; and if the husband may die, she is free from the law, so as not to be an adulteress, having become another man’s. So that, my brethren, ye also were made dead to the law through the body of the Christ, for your becoming another’s, who out of the dead was raised up, that we might bear fruit to God.”