

“It’s time for C.P.R.-Are you ready?”

Written July of 2012

Scripture Reading: Matthew 10:39

Introduction

Skit: *The lights go dark and a video plays of a heart monitor making the beeping noise of each heart beat. After a few seconds it flat-lines and a hospital voice is heard calling out CODE BLUE. The lights come on and there is a hospital table with someone going into cardiac arrest and hospital staff trying to revive him. They begin standard procedures for a CODE BLUE, when they finally say “its time to revive him”. The lights go out and the projection screen reads:*

“It’s time for CPR...Are you ready?” (Lights come back on afterwards)

That was me on that table for many years my dear Brothers and Sisters. When I was 16 years old I began showing symptoms of “Heart Disease”. By 17 years of age, I was diagnosed with full blown “Heart Disease” which was one of the reasons I left my house to live my life. *(Not one of the smarter choices I’ve made that’s for sure)*

I had many side effects that made the “Heart Disease” worse and what made the side effects more pronounced was the lifestyle that I was living. My Parents wanted me to go on the “HEART” transplant list, but I refused because I hated the “Doctor” *(I had my reasons why)*. I didn’t care whether I was dead or not.

However, by a miracle of God on August 15, 2005 I received a “Heart Transplant”. You see my dear Brothers and Sisters the Great Physician supernaturally transplanted this **dead flesh heart** for His own.

I suffered for **eleven years** not with **Physical Heart Disease**, but with **Spiritual Heart Disease**. An infection called sin kept my Heart Spiritually dead for many years. **This “INFECTION” called SIN changed my lifestyle and caused many side effects such as:**

- Drug abuse *(Ecstasy, Cocaine, Prescription drugs, Marijuana etc...)*
- Alcoholism *(Rum and Coke, twist of lime was my preferred drink)*
- Sexual immorality
- The most severe side effect of this infection called **“SIN”**, was embracing Atheism in order explain all the Physical, Emotional and Spiritual abuse I had endured growing up. **This was the main reason that led me to hate the “Doctor”, who I now call the “GREAT PHYSCIAN”.** Almighty God!!

My name is David, and if you haven’t guessed already, I will be your speaker tonight. I have come here tonight to testify to you and be living proof to you of what God can do with a person that was broken, messed up, hurt and angry.

I have come to bring you a Message that God willing can save you from this walking DEATH that I lived and experienced for 11 years. And also with the hopes and prayer that the HOLY SPIRIT leads you all to CPR! You see, on August 15, 2005 I was Born Again by the power of the Holy Spirit and on that day, I received a NEW HEART in which I invited Jesus Christ to be Lord of. That day I began walking in NEWNESS of life. I stand before you today as evidence of the POWER OF GOD!

Let us bow our heads in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to be here with us, and most of all to open our Hearts, Minds and spirit to hear not my words; but Gods' Words speaking through me.

Sermon

What the skit illustrated tonight is a medical CODE BLUE. This is when someone's heart gives out and stops beating; and we all know when your heart stops beating, you stop living/you're dead.

We call this having a HEART ATTACK or cardiac arrest; and the people most susceptible to heart attacks are those that have been diagnosed with heart disease most times because of the life style they have chosen to live.

This month's theme for the Youth has been the Spiritual CODE BLUE and the past three weeks **LBV Youth** has illustrated to you the:

- 1). Symptoms**
- 2). Bring you to place like a hospital or Doctor**
- 3). Need for treatment and today is**
- 4). CODE BLUE (*your heart has stopped beating*) and how YOU can be revived in Christ.**

Many today are cold in their Faith, not willing to allow themselves to be used by God for fear of disturbing the "Status Quo". Somehow, someway the Church as a whole has stopped living and fulfilling their purpose for the Kingdom of God.

"Spiritual Heart Disease has overtaken us, without us realizing what has happened."

Today's Message "*It's time for CPR...Are you ready?*" is centered around the Spiritual CODE BLUE and the vital need "Christians" have for Spiritual CPR. In the Physical Dimension CPR is used to resuscitate or revive the heart and lungs when they have stopped working in order to prevent emanate death. In order for us to truly understand the depth of what today's Sermon title is implying to us it is vital that you understand what the Spiritual acronym for CPR is...

Christ

People

Revived

**Show this acronym on projection screen.*

Churches are always talking about REVIVAL, but could it be that they were never alive to begin with. I want to take a moment and define a very key word tonight, and it's the root word of **RIVAL** which is **Revive**:

- **Revive** = Come to life, bring back to life with fervor.

Spiritual CPR goes hand in hand with the Born Again experience. Now let's get into the MEAT of the Gospel for you tonight. Hope you can handle a little Truth.

“Religion has become the biggest side effect of the infection called SIN, and as a result has become one of the key reasons for Spiritual Heart Disease.”

Paul tells us in: **Romans 6:23** *“that wage of sin is death”*. However, through the Blood of Christ we have the solution for this little problem called **“DEATH”**. Let's briefly look at **John 3:3, 6**. **Verse 3: “in order to enter the Kingdom we must be BORN AGAIN”** what does that imply? Let's look at **Verse 6: “we must be born of or baptized by Water and of the Spirit”**.

“My dear Brothers and Sisters if you are not Born Again then you are Spiritually and outside of Christ”

If we are truly Born Again you will have no need for Revivals. God gives you life again when you're Born Again. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is what cleanses us, and sanctifies our body to become the temple of God. The Born Again Experience sanctifies our HEART so that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit can live in us.

Paul also tells us in: **Romans 6:4** *“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the Glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in Newness of life.”*

The Born Again Experience brings us back to life with fervor and PURPOSE. It gives us a new life IN CHRIST JESUS. Most people spend their entire lives trying to figure out their PURPOSE; but if they gave their life to Christ and are BORN AGAIN they would know their PURPOSE. Yet Religion teaches us that we must follow a checklist of things in order to be saved. Religion teaches us that we must first obey a church manual, then what Christ came to show us through His earthly Ministry.

“Religion has put us into a deep Spiritual Coma, and has caused the Spiritual Heart Disease that many suffer from and this has caused the Body of Christ to be DEAD!!!!”

The prophet **Isaiah** said it best: *“these (religious) people worship me with their mouths, but their hearts are far from me.”*

***Play Video clip “The Invite-rock”**

How many of you enjoyed the video clip from **Godtube.com**? Now let me ask you a question; honestly who here already thought that the person they were talking about was the other way around. **This was a very funny way to present a very serious epidemic in our churches today my dear Brothers and Sisters.**

This is why I am bringing you this Message tonight titled: *“It’s time for CPR...Are you ready?”* The reason you thought that in the video clip it was the other way around was because without realizing it we have been conditioned to see, think and act that way. **You’re probably asking yourself how is that possible...Right?**

Religion has conditioned us to believe that we have to come to Christ looking in a certain way, dressed a certain way, eating a certain way and the list goes on and on. Society also conditions us to stereo-type someone without taking the time to get to know who they really are. Christ says: **“Come as you are”** but here’s the thing, **if** you’re truly Born Again you won’t stay as you are.

Christ spoke out against Religion time and time again throughout His ministry. Yet many have embraced Religion and made it their life’s Purpose to live by. You see almost everyone knows **John 3:16** but how many of us live it:

“For God so loved the World, that He gave His ONLY begotten Son; that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”

I tell you what, that even Atheist know this text, but what is interesting is that we never talk about **John 3:17**:

“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved”

No one ever talks about John 3:17, maybe it's because maybe then Religion would prove itself to be a shaky man-made philosophy. Notice in **John 3:16** a key word: **“whosoever”**. What does this little word mean to us? Can anyone tell me? Does **John 3:16** say if you eat a certain way, look a certain, go to church a certain day you **“should not perish but have everlasting life”**?

NO...absolutely NOT!!!!

WHOSOEVER means: anyone, everyone, someone; it means everybody here my dear Brothers and Sisters. I know for a fact that there are many here today, including myself that have either been directly or indirectly affected by Religion or a Religious Mindset. **The Lord has sent me here today to reestablish the balance back into the Body of Christ. Listen up:**

- Religion teaches you must fix or change your outside and you'll be in; but Christ says let me in, and your outside will reflect Him.
- Religion closes the doors to you; Christ says He's at the Door waiting for you to let Him in.
- Religion points the finger; but Christ reaches out His hand to lift you up.

Before we close tonight, I wanted to show to you a short video that I came across, that speaks of this epidemic that has infiltrated the Body of Christ. Open your Hearts, Minds and spirit to receive what God is conveying to you today.

***Play video clip “Why I hate Religion, but love Jesus” by Spoken Word**

Closing

I am reminded of the story of Mary Magdalene found in **John 8:3:11**, when she was thrown at the feet of Jesus, accused of the Pharisees that she didn't measure up to their Religious ideals and they wanted to stone her to death.

Most of us are familiar with the story. Jesus began writing in the dirt with His finger; and I believe He began writing some of the secret sins they had committed. **In Verse 7, He tells them: “whomever is free from sin cast the first stone.”**

One by one they dropped their stones and they all left. Here was Mary Magdalene at the FEET of JESUS where she found Grace, Mercy, Forgiveness and Agape LOVE. Mary laid her past along with all the bad decisions she had made, like: drugs, alcohol and sexual immorality at THE FEET OF JESUS.

She laid her present and future at His feet as well. She didn't care what all the critics said, she didn't care that some of her friends were watching her, right there in that moment she made the decision to become a bold Follower of Jesus Christ for the rest of her life.

Interestingly, when all the Disciples were hiding from the scene of the crucifixion, there was Mary Magdalene at the FOOT OF THE CROSS, at the feet of her Lord and Master regardless if it could cost her life.

In our **Scripture Reading** tonight which was in **Matthew 10:39** it says: ***“He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it”.***

Altar Call

Maybe there are a lot of people here today that can identify with the brokenness of Mary Magdalene. Maybe Religion has told you that you don't measure up to their man-made standards and ideals. Maybe you feel that you've done things that God can never forgive.

I am here to tell you that you are everything to God, and you matter to Him. He doesn't care about the Past, because He gave you His only begotten Son to die a horrible death on the Cross so that His Blood could wash away your sins.

God cares if today, right now you will lay it all at the Cross; Lay it all at THE FEET OF JESUS.

I am inviting you tonight to be truly REVIVED by Christ and the Holy Spirit. I am inviting you tonight to experience CPR. I am inviting you to have new life breathed into you by the Holy Spirit.

I am challenging all of you today to be part of the solution, part of the cure. I am challenging you all to help REVIVE the BODY OF CHRIST and be His Fire in the Church. I am challenging you all to go to church not for the people in Church but for God alone.

I invite you to come forward as the final song plays **“At your Feet”** by Casting Crowns and lay your Past, Present and Future at the FOOT OF THE CROSS! I invite you to make Jesus Lord of your life. God Bless you all...