

**ALIVE IN 'O5**  
**Rev.3:1-6**  
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**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Christians are people who have been dead but now have been made alive; but who also may die again, Eph.2:1,5; 1Tim.5:6.
2. Some at Corinth were weak and sickly and even dead spiritually, 1Cor.11:30.
3. Sardis had a name that she was alive, but was dead, Rev.3:1-3.
  - a. V.4, as it were, speaks of “the faithful few”.
  - b. Were it not for “the faithful few” here, we could close the meeting house doors on Sunday night and Wednesday night.”
  - c. Could it be that the others, like Sardis, have a name that they are alive, but are dead?
4. Laodicea thought she was spiritually rich and lacking nothing, but was in reality in such a spiritual state of luke-warmness and spiritual sickness that she was about to be vomited out of the Lord’s mouth, Rev.3:15-19.
5. Neither one was alive and well; both or all were warned and admonished to repent and prepare themselves that they might overcome and be saved. 1Jno.5:3,4
6. Therefore, one can be spiritually sick or even dead and not be aware of it; let us be challenged by this fact and these examples to examine ourselves and make sure we are ALIVE IN 'O5!
7. Normally we set up and take notice when something that pertains to us is a matter of life or death; certainly this is; and surely we will take serious interest in it for that reason.

**II. DISCUSSION**

**A. 1<sup>ST</sup> DEFINITION AND USE OF THE TERM IN OUR TOPIC**

1. “Alive”
  - a. It is used and applied primarily in the sense of being lively, active, animated, spirited, busy, industrious, diligent, full of eagerness; as, the company were all alive; or as a coach or drill sergeant might say, “Look alive troops!” or “Be alive men!”
  - b. Analogous words would be “watchful,” “alert.”

- c. Instead of being idle, inactive, lukewarm, lifeless or dead, be alive or be alert and **active**.
  - d. Active is a word which may qualify anything that shows its nature or its existence in acts, in action, or in works; as, an active volcano; an active brain; or, in our case, an active Christian; an active faith; and active local church.
  - e. Be alive, with special emphasis on being diligent, industrious, zealous, energetic, active, busy, both individually and collectively as the Lord's church at W. Hepburn Ave.
2. "Alive in '05"
    - a. Alive is used in rhyme with '05, meaning 2005 for effect; to help capture our attention; to challenge us; to help motivate us.
  3. The following scriptures should also help: Rom.12:11; 2Cor.8:11; 2Tim.2:15; 1Pet.5:8.
  4. In light of the definition given, can you truthfully say you are alive? That this church as a whole is alive?

**B. BEING ALIVE IN '05 WILL INVOLVE THINGS TO DO AND NOT TO DO DURING THE YEAR, BEGINNING NOW!**

1. Some things not to do.
  - a. Never say "I am too busy" or "I just don't have time for that" when it's something to be done in service to the Lord; especially something involving the work and worship of this local church!
    - (1) We are seldom, if ever, too busy to do what we want to do.
    - (2) If at all possible, we make time to do things that we want to do.
    - (3) Normally, it's only those things that we really don't want to do that we are too busy to do or don't have time to do.
    - (4) If we are too busy to be active for the Lord and his ordained work, then we are too busy to be saved in heaven; too busy for the Lord; too busy to enjoy God's blessings.
    - (5) Some stay too busy: Playing, working, making a living, "sitting on the front porch," because those are things they want to do!
    - (6) It has been said that of the extra time we have we use at least 10% of it in accomplishing nothing.

- (a) How about giving the Lord that time?
  - (b) But even that would be giving the Lord only the “left-overs” and putting him in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in your life instead of 1<sup>st</sup> place, which he demands, Mt.6:33.
- b. Never put yourself in a position to have to “make excuses” for neglect of duty to the Lord.
  - (1) Each of the following offered an excuse but not one was accepted:
    - (a) Adam and Eve, Gen.3:12,13.
    - (b) Moses, Exo.3:11; 4:1,10.
    - (c) King Saul, 1Sam.15:1-15,19-24.
    - (d) Those of Lk.9:57-62.
    - (e) Those of Lk.14:15-24.
  - (2) Remember this: “All excuses are lies!”
  - (3) What is our excuse for not:
    - (a) Freely and fully supporting the work of this church?
    - (b) Attending Sunday night and Wednesday services where the work of this church is still carried on?
    - (c) Giving as prospered?
  - (4) When we begin to pick and choose which service we will attend, we are putting self first before the Lord; we are weak, sickly, or even dead spiritually!
- c. Don’t be a “hearer only,” knowing to do right but not doing it, Jas.1:22; 4:17.
- d. Don’t trust in material things or lay up treasures on earth and neglect the spiritual, 1Tim.6:6-12,17-19; Mk.10:23-25; Mt.6:19-21; Lk.8:14; 12:15-21; Mt.19:21,22.
  - (1) Some show their love for and trust in such things:
    - (a) By always having time for work, but little or no time for assembling with the saints; little or no time for working to teach, convert, restore the fallen.
    - (b) By being able to do other things they want to do after working long hours on the job, but can’t make it to services because of loss of sleep or tiredness, a slight headache, etc.; etc.
- e. Don’t wait ‘till tomorrow to serve the Lord; do it today; tomorrow may be too late; it may never come!
  - (1) You can wait until tomorrow for many things; and if tomorrow never comes, it will not matter!

(2) But if you put off serving the Lord 'till tomorrow and tomorrow never comes, then it will be too late for you!

2. Things to do to be alive in '05.

- a. You need to obey the gospel to be made alive if you have not already done so.
- b. You need to renew your faith and zeal for the Lord if you have let things slip or have become neglectful. See Rom.12:1,2; Heb.2:1-3.
- c. You need to plant some "old seed" in new soil by reaching out and touching someone with the word of God, the seek of kingdom, the gospel, the power of God unto salvation.
- d. You need to realize you are responsible for the kind of life you are living and will live in '05; after all, we are what we want to be.
  - (1) Prov.4:23; 23:6,7.
  - (2) Don't be guilty of blaming others for your failure to serve the zealously.
  - (3) Be as David and say: "I have" "I need" "I will"
  - (4) Or as was the Prodigal son "when he came to himself".
- e. You need to resolve to say "I will work," and then do it, Jno.9:4; 1Cor.15:58; Rev.14:13.
- f. Resolve to learn more about the Bible in '05.
- g. Resolve to make some personal plans and set some personal goals that will properly affect the work here.
  - (1) We must be goal oriented, both individually and collectively.
  - (2) All accomplishments and success depend on being goal oriented.
  - (3) There muse to:
    - (a) Immediate goals.
    - (b) Distant goals.
    - (c) And an ultimate goal.
- h. Resolve to forget the past and its accomplishments or its failures and press on in the present seeking the future, Phil.3:7-14.
- i. Give diligence in adding the elements specified in 2Pet.1:5-11, where we are told to add the following:
  - (1) Virtue: Courage and soul vigor; the manliness and the determination to do what is right; moral courage.

- (2) Knowledge: Is the discrimination indicated in Eph.5:17; Heb.5:12-14.
- (3) Temperance: Self-control; self-government; self-discipline; the ability to control one's life.
- (4) Patience: Endurance; positive resistance of evils and a steadfast bearing up under them.
- (5) Godliness: Humble reverence and deep piety (devotion) toward God.
- (6) Brotherly kindness: Love of the brethren, 1Jno.4:20-5:1; Jno.134:34,35. – With it we are alive. Without it we are dead!

### **III. CONCLUSION**

1. It is a matter of life or death. While only God can make us alive and keep us alive, we have a part in this live or death matter.
2. What God does in this matter is so much greater than what we do, but our part is vitally important, and we can't be alive without it.
3. What God does completely overshadows what we do; nevertheless, God's part is no more essential than our part.
4. For us to be made alive takes both the divine and the human part.
5. For us to remain alive requires both the divine and the human part.
6. To close the study read Bill Crews article: "DO YOU WANT THESE THINGS TO BE?", from The Cy-Fair Appeal, Vol. VII, Apr.1,1984, No.12, Cy-Fair Church of Christ, Houston, Texas.