

# Awakening The Dead

In a certain district of Germany, there used to be a curious custom. It was based on the assumption that the dead are not really so, and that if only they can be aroused to make an effort, the deep lethargy will be thrown off and they will again take their place with the living. To this end an acquaintance would whisper into the ear of the corpse beseeching words, entreating the sleeper to besith himself. There was never any response. The dead are only raised to life by a miracle, by Divine power.

These things strikingly illustrate spiritual truth. Men as they are in themselves are spiritually dead—**DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SINS**," says Ephesians 2:1. The speaker, the writer may whisper into their ears about salvation, eternal life and Heaven never so charmingly, never with such reasonableness, never with such emotional fervor. Men in a state of spiritual death pay no heed. Nor will they until they are quickened from spiritual death by the power of God, until they are born again. As Jesus said, **"EXCEPT A MAN BE BORN AGAIN, HE CANNOT SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD."**

What a gracious thing it is that God does for those who are saved. He takes away their heart of stone and gives them a heart of flesh. He opens their blinded eyes that they might see and believe on Christ as He is set forth in the Gospel. He bestows upon them His sovereign grace. He raises them from death to life. These are all ways of describing what happens when God makes His Word life-giving and powerful unto the salvation of the lost.

## GOD OR TYRANNY

Plato was a pagan. He knew nothing of Moses, nor, of course, of Christ. Plato was also a great philosopher — perhaps the most brilliant man that has ever lived. His extensive knowledge included a clear understanding of the course of history. In a non-christian way he recognized a tendency to deteriorate both in individuals and in governments, and books VIII and IX of his Republic show the inevitability of tyranny and dictatorship.

The Christian with the light of God's revelation can see even more clearly than Plato. The Bible teaches that "The Lord reigneth: let the people tremble" (Psalm 95:1). And "God is the king of all the earth" (Psalm 47:7). And, "He removeth kings and setteth up kings" (Dan. 2:21). When God is recognized in government, then the people have certain inalienable rights — rights that the government did not bestow and therefore cannot take away. When God is recognized in government, the rulers are limited by a higher power, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, and their arbitrary will is checked. But when a nation, its people and its rulers, forget God, they acknowledge no higher power. Human rights are regarded as privileges granted by the State, and therefore the State may withdraw them. When God is dethroned, the State becomes supreme and government becomes totalitarian. And this is tyranny. Even if the ruler is selected by the people, it is still tyranny.

The security of human rights, the preservation of religious liberty, freedom from totalitarianism can only be assured on Christian principles of government. God must be acknowledged, must be believed, must be worshipped. There is no other check to the lust for power. We plead with you to worship God through Jesus Christ for your own personal salvation from sin and Hell. We plead with you also to worship God through Christ for the good of our nation.

Government there must be. Someone must rule. But men will be ruled by God, or they will be ruled by tyrants.

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