

## NEWSLETTER

January - 2024

**Sunday Bible Study:** 9:45 a.m.

**Sunday Service:** 11:00 a.m.

**Wednesday Bible Study:**

7:00 p.m.

## SPEAKERS

**January 7:** Ken Storm, *Holy Communion*

**January 14:** Mark Sunnarborg

**January 21:** Ken Storm

**January 28:** *To be Announced*

## CONTACT

### Website:

[www.tapiolachurch.org](http://www.tapiolachurch.org)

**Mailing:** P.O. Box 531,  
Houghton, MI 49931

### Location:

17602 N. Lake Ave.,  
Tapiola, MI 49916  
(906) 334-2766

**Contact:** Ken Storm, Pastor  
(906) 482-3234

## TAPIOLA APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH

### The Second Death

*“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins” - Ephesians 2:1*

The Bible speaks of two deaths: the first being a physical decease of the body with the second being an eternal separation of the soul from God. Unlike animals, which consist of only a body, God made man to consist of both a body and a soul: *“...God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul”* (Gen 2:7). After God made male and female, He was very pleased with all of His creation: *“And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good...”* (Gen 1:31). Pleased, that is, until Adam and Eve sinned when, after hearing their confession and forgiving them, He drove them out of paradise to *“...keep the way of the tree of life”* (Gen 3: 24). This signaled that man would not live forever and that both deaths had just then entered into the world. Consequently, the physical body of every creature, including that of man, was now ordained to eventually cease to exist but the soul of man, even after physical death, would continue to live forever—either in heaven or in hell.

Physical death is inescapable. And all of mankind must stand before God on the Day of Judgment for *“...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment”* (Hebrews 9:27). There everyone will answer for his own deeds: *“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire”* (Revelation 20:11-15).

Fortunately, the second death is not inevitable. God lovingly provided a way of escape to all of mankind through the blood of Jesus. Leviticus describes in great detail the power of the spoken word to cleanse a penitent soul from all sin, thus releasing that person from the second death and reconciling him to God. Specifically, any person who was awakened to the fact that he was a sinner (Romans 3:23) was encouraged by the Holy Ghost to confess his sin to a priest standing at the door of the tabernacle (Lev 1:2-3). The priest would then sprinkle sacrificial blood as a token of God that all of his past sins were forgiven (Romans 3:25). However, not every sin-sick soul chose to go to the tabernacle to unburden his conscience; instead, if he went elsewhere to confess his sin, God would not forgive his sin (Lev 17:4). Today, it is the blood of Jesus that cleanses sin whenever a believer proclaims the gospel of salvation to a penitent soul: *“Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee”* (Matt 9:2).

As our subject text states; unless our sins are forgiven, we are spiritually dead and, further, our names will be blotted out of the book of life (Ex 32:32). All that God asks of us is to answer His call to repent and believe, by the grace of God, the word of reconciliation proclaimed to us. If we will fervently

petition God, asking Him “...*what must I do to be saved*” (Acts 16:30), He promises to point out any sin that would hinder us from entering heaven. He does not force us to do anything, but He tenderly invites all who will hear His word to “*Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*” (Matt 4:17). As was done in the Old Testament, we too can be washed clean in sacrificial blood; only this time “...*we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins*” (Eph 1:7).

Jesus is coming soon, are you ready to meet Him today? Because God wants no person to be lost, He gives us a choice: either we answer that still, small voice to repent of our sin with haste or, if we hesitate, we could spend eternity lamenting that I waited too long.

*God's Peace,*

Charles Korhonen