**RISE UP** in 2021

April 4, 2021

Dr. Jerry Edmonson, *Lead Pastor*

Resurrection Sunday!

**COME OUT -** *John 1:1-44*



**What is your favorite smell?** The smell of rain? A fresh cut lemon? Chocolate chip cookies baking in the oven? Popcorn popping at the movie theater? Remember those places called movie theaters?

**I love the smell of fresh coffee!** It is not just the smell; it is all the feelings of contentment and nostalgic memories that come rushing in.

**But then there are things that do not smell great!** Once we had a mouse die and we could not find it anywhere. It stunk forever and then when we moved ... **there it was - under the fridge!**

Rotten eggs, limburger cheese, any kind of poop, as a matter of fact during an archeological dig a **14th century latrine** was unearthed and **it still stunk**! That is some staying power! Durian, or stinky fruit as it is known in Asian countries, is pretty powerful but …

the worst smelling thing on earth is … **Rafflesia arnoldii -** aka, **the Stinking Corpse Lily!** It is over three feet wide and it literally **smells   
like a dead, decaying and rotting corpse**, with a hint of fish and sweaty socks for good measure.

For decades, it was thought that the human nose could smell about **10,000 odors.** But research in the last ten years has shown that your nose can smell somewhere around **one trillion different odors.**

Life has a **smell** to it.

On this Easter Sunday, there is an **aroma present … it is the smell of an offering of love.** The Apostle Paul writes to the church at Ephesus …

*And walk in love, as Christ loved us and* ***gave himself up for us****,* ***a fragrant offering*** *and sacrifice to God.* Ephesians 5:2

**3,187,086** people died from all causes this last year. That is **9.7 deaths per 1,000** people. The **highest death rate since 1949**. Yes, we all die …

We all **die** ... but will we all **live**?

**We all are going to die.** But how many of you want to live even though you die physically? It is said that …

*We have two lives, and the second begins when we realize we only have one.*

That is what death does: **it reminds us to not waste this life.** It is gone so quickly. The truth is that …

**We all have two lives …**

* One **Physical** Life
* One **Spiritual** Life

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.* ***I came that they may have life*** *and have it abundantly.* John 10:10

You cannot **live** until you hear and respond to **Jesus** saying to you … **COME** **OUT**!

**COME OUT**

*Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.* ***It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair****, whose brother Lazarus was ill.* John 11:1–2

*So the sisters sent to him, saying, “Lord,* ***he whom you love is ill****.” But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the* ***Son of God may be glorified through it****.”* John 11:3-4

*Now* ***Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus****. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.* John 11:5-6

*Then Jesus told them plainly, “****Lazarus has died,*** *and for your sake I am glad that I was not there,* ***so that you may believe****. But let us go to him.” So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “****Let us also go, that we may die with him.****”* John 11:14-16

*Now when Jesus came, he found that* ***Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.*** John 11:17

* **3 hours postmortem**: stiffening of the muscles — aka rigor mortis — sets in.
* **24-72 hours postmortem:** internal organs begin to decompose due to cell death; the body begins to emit pungent odors; rigor mortis subsides.
* **3-5 days postmortem**: as organs continue to decompose, bodily fluids leak from orifices; the skin turns a greenish color.

**This was the state of Lazarus’ body.**

*Martha said to Jesus, “****Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.*** *But even now I know that whatever you ask from God,* ***God will give you.”*** *Jesus said to her, “****Your brother will rise again.****” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”* John 11:21-24

*Jesus said to her, “****I am the resurrection and the life.*** *Whoever* ***believes*** *in me,* ***though he die****, yet* ***shall he live****, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.* ***Do you believe this?****”* John 11:25-26

Do you **believe** this?

Your **second** life will change the **first** life because you realize it is your **only** life.

*She said to him, “****Yes, Lord****; I believe that* ***you are the Christ****, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”* John 11:27

*When* ***Jesus saw her weeping****, and* ***the Jews who had come with her also weeping****, he was* ***deeply moved*** *in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”* ***Jesus wept.*** *So the Jews said, “****See how he loved him****!”* John 11:33-36

*Jesus said, “****Take away the stone****.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him,* ***“Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days****.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that* ***if you believed you would see the glory of God****?”*  John 11:39-40

Sin is **death** ... and dead things **stink**!

*When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “****Lazarus, come out****.”* John 11:43

We are powerless to change, we are powerless to resurrect our own lives ... Jesus alone is our hope and He says to each of us ... **Come Out!**

Jesus meets us where we are, even when we are dead in our sins or just hiding sin that is killing us ... **Come Out!**

It is as if our lives are tombs and Jesus speaks to our lives ... come out and live!

***The man who had died*** *came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “****Unbind him, and let him go****.”* John 11:44

Jesus says to Satan … Let him go, to sin in your life, let her go! He is mine, you are mine, she is mine … **LET THEM GO!**

You can have **life** because of Jesus’s **death** and **resurrection**.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy,* ***he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead****,* 1 Peter 1:3

**Have you discovered the life that is a sweet aroma to God?** Jesus has removed the stone and called you to come out and live.