**JESUS CHRIST, THE GIVER OF LIFE – JOHN 11**

Introduction: This is the seventh of the miracles John records before Christ’s resurrection, showing us the plan of salvation. Here we see salvation pictured as resurrection from the dead (see Romans 10:9). John speaks of life at least twenty times, reminding us who the “giver of life” is. Lazarus illustrates the salvation of the lost sinner in seven ways:

1. He was dead. The unsaved person is not just sick; they are spiritually dead (Eph. 2:1-3; Col. 2:13). When someone is physically dead, they do not respond to food, temperature or pain. The lost have no real interest in the Bible, the movement of the Holy Spirit or fellowship with the saints. A dead sinner does not need education, medicine, morality, or religion - he needs LIFE!
2. He was decayed. Jesus raised three people from the dead in the Gospels: a twelve year old girl who had just died (Luke 8:49-56), a young man who had been dead several hours (Luke 7:11-17), and an adult man who had been in the tomb four days. A person cannot be “more dead” than another. The only difference is the degree of decay. The moral lost religionist may not be decayed, but he is still dead.
3. He was raised and given life. How did Christ give him life? By His Word! This is the way He raised all three people mentioned above (John 5:24; Ephesians 2:1-10). Salvation is not a set of rules…it is LIFE (I John 5:10-13).
4. He was loosed. Lazarus was completely bound and could not free himself. The believer should not be bound by the graveclothes of the old life but should walk in the freedom of the new life (Colossians 3:1-15).
5. He witnessed to others. In (11:45 and 12:9-11,17) we see that Lazarus caused quite a stir in the area! People saw him and believed in Christ. So should it be with us.
6. He was persecuted. The Jews hated Lazarus because he convinced others of Christ’s deity (12:10,11). Satan always fights a living miracle (II Timothy 3:12).
7. He fellowshipped with Jesus. (12:1,2) This is the rightful place for every Christian who has been raised from spiritual death. We are now sitting together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:5,6).