The Fundamentals of Life
Gen. 1:20-28

Introduction:
A. There are certain things fundamental to life and its perpetuation.
B. These fundamentals are the same for physical and spiritual life.
C. These fundamentals apply to us as individuals and as a people.

Discussion:
I. There Must Be Life.
A. God gave physical life to all living things.
B. God gave physical and spiritual life to man (Gen. 2:7; Heb. 12:9)
C. Man sinned and died spiritually – ultimately physically (Gen. 2:17; 3:22-24)
   1. All die physically because of Adam’s sin.
   2. All die spiritually because of own sin (Ezek. 18:4, 20).
D. Jesus came to give life to the spiritually dead – ultimately to the physical dead.
   1. The resurrection of the spiritually dead (Eph 2:1-8; Col. 2:12-13; 3:1-2; Rom. 6:4; John 5:25-29)
   2. The resurrection of the physically dead (1 Cor. 15:20-22)
   3. Christ died for every man (Heb. 2:9) – What about infants?

II. There Must Be Growth.
A. For life to continue, must grow until we can reproduce.
B. Christians must grow in grace and knowledge (2 Pet. 3:17, 18).
   1. Must grow to teach others (Heb. 5:12-14).
   2. Newborn Christians expected to grow (1 Pet. 1:22-2:3)
C. Growth is combination of eating and exercise (Heb. 5:12-14; 1 Tim. 4:7,8).

III. There Must Be Reproduction.
A. Without reproduction human race would die out – same with spiritual race.
B. Without reproduction congregations will die.
   1. Can start with our families (Eph. 6:4; 1 Pet. 3:1).
   2. Can try to restore the fallen (Gal. 6:1; Jas. 5:19-20).
   3. Can commit to faithful men what we learn (2 Tim. 2:2).
   4. Can teach the lost in the world. (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16).
   5. Can support others who preach and teach (Phil. 4:15-17).

Conclusion:
A. For life to continue we must first be alive, must grow, must reproduce.
B. If this does not happen physically then the human race will die out.
C. If this does not happen spiritually then congregations will die out.

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1From mental notes taken on a sermon by preached Ray Farris at Red Bay, AL (7/15/99)