The Day death Died

I Cor. 15:53-57

Intro: Hot day in July 1924 – Calvin Coolidge was in the White House. His son was playing tennis without socks on- Blister – infected died. President and his wife not powerful enough to stop death.

The ultimate Experience of all humanity is helpless before the onslaught of Death. "Oh Death where is your stink?" Just about everywhere! In our Families, Friends, Church, All Around us.

On a special day in history 22 centuries ago – Easter – DEATH DIED!

Not of natural causes. Someone took Death by the neck and squeezed the life out of it.

Next Sunday, across the globe, pastors will announce the death of death.

Let's play Sherlock Holmes and sift through the mystery.

Who is Responsible for the death of death?

According to the New Testament, Jesus Christ Did It.

John 1:1	Jesus was with God from the very beginning
Phil. 2:9	Name that is above every name

Col. 1:15 The Image of the invisible God

Hebrews 12:2 The Author and finisher of our faith

Revelation 1:8 The Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

He is the one who did it. Death is dead and Jesus is responsible.

When did Jesus put death to death?

That first Easter Morning. Jesus came back to life!

Not the first blow. Jesus struck the last blow against death.

Palm Sunday, Calvary, tomb, Nature shuddered – disciples wept

That was Friday – <u>Sunday was coming!</u>

When the dust settled – the tables were turned. The tomb was empty.

Jesus danced on the deaths grave

DEATH IS DEAD AND Jesus is responsible!

So how did He do it?

Death is rooted in 2 factors: Mystery of death and the Finality of death

Mystery - a room from which there seems to be no exit.

Finality no exit!

Jesus took the finality out of death. Many do not believe in life after death.

--Wife said her husband does not believe in life after supper.

Easter – life after death the empty tomb Jesus experienced death!

Once we die, we cannot come back <u>but Jesus Did</u> <u>FIRST FRUIT</u>

Death is dead for all Christians for all time.

I Cor. 15:55-56 Death is Dead

SO WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

III Dietrich Bonhofer was hanged by 3rd Reich in Germany

"This is the end, but not for me!"

D.L. Moody "One day you will read D L Moody is dead. <u>Don't you believe it. I'll be</u> more alive than I have ever been."

Conclusion: We will all walk through the valley of the shadow of death. Just a matter of time. Age? 20-120. Cannot be sure. When we go into the Valley of the Shadow of death, We Christians will go all the way through it. When we come out on the other side, we will be more alive than we have ever been.

"O death, where is your sting? O grave where is your victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin in the Law, but thanks be to God, which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."