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East Columbus Bulletin

A Passage to Ponder: Galatians 2:20

William Barclay observed that Paul's life had changed so drastically that the "only way he could describe it was to say that he had been crucified with Christ so that the man he used to be was dead and the living power within him now was Christ himself."

What does being "crucified with Christ" mean? How does it impact "the life I now live" in a practical, daily way?

#1 It involves a relationship with Christ.

Paul often uses the expression "with Christ" as well as "in Christ" to identify his relationship with the Lord.

- We have "died with Christ from the basic principles of the world" (Col. 2:20).
- We have "been made alive together with Christ"(Eph. 2:5).
- Our life is "hidden with Christ in God" (Col 3:3).
- We are "heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17).
- "Now that we've died with Christ we believe that we shall also live with Him (Rom. 6:8).

Being "in Christ" and "with Christ" is not literal, mystical, or physical, but spiritual. Being "crucified with Christ," unlike [Patrice Tamao](#), who literally allowed himself to be nailed to a cross, is about putting to death our carnal desires, our worldly enticements, and our fleshly lusts.

#2 It begins and is sustained by faith.

Because our faith is "in Christ", we receive justification, experience inner peace, enjoy all spiritual blessings, and live in hope beyond this life (Rom. 5:1-2). Faith, of course, comes through hearing, receiving, and believing

Times of Services

Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship only

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Study and Worship Opportunities

Due to COVID concerns, services and classes are limited to Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. Stay alert to possible changes.

News and Notes

- **Home Bound Members:** Mike Butler, Willena Woods.
- **Prayer Requests:** Elbert Logan, Lee Gallop, Doug and Pat Wheeler, Steve Coburn, David McGee.
- **Others to Remember:** Wade McCrary, Jim Ratcliff, Jerry Paschall, Elbert Logan, Mike & Marion Butler, Lee Gallop. Willena Woods is at Windsor Place..
- **Sick:** Doug Wheeler is undergoing radiation treatments for lymphatic cancer. Pat Wheeler is receiving treatments for pancreatic cancer. Steve Coburn is rehabilitating from a collapsed lung. Jim Ratcliff is in Trinity Place for physical rehabilitation. In addition, we have the following members and family who recently had COVID virus: Anne Temple, Cindy Nutt, Willena Woods. We are thankful for those who have recovered and continue to pray for those still battling the virus and its lingering effects. David McGee underwent extensive foot surgery and in addition is being treated for a long term infection. Mike Lavender is recuperating from recent hip replacement surgery.

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the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). Through it, we come to know Christ, and choose to be “crucified with Christ.”

#3 It changes the way we think.

If we’re really “crucified with Christ,” it causes us to think like Him. To have “the mind of Christ” (Phil. 2:5). To think on things that are true. Noble. Right. Pure. Lovely. Admirable. Virtuous. And praiseworthy (Phil. 4:8).

#4 It affects the way we speak.

Words are important. They reveal our thoughts, attitude, and character. Jesus warned, “For by your words you will be justified, and by your words, you will be condemned” (Matt. 12:37. Speech that is harsh, critical, unkind, profane, slanderous, divisive, and untrue does not reflect the spirit of one “crucified with Christ.”

#5 It alters the way we act.

Actions follow what is in the heart, the mind, and the soul. A “crucified with Christ” person conducts and comports themselves different than worldly folks. The Bible admonishes us to “put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry”(Col.3:5).

#6 It’s the guiding principle governing all our motives.

When I’m crucified with Christ, I “seek the things that are above” (Col. 3:5). My hopes, dreams, and aspirations rise above mere material pursuits but are used as means to a greater goal, a spiritual objective, and a heavenly destination.

In the words of J. Furman Miller, “Crucified is the only really definitive adjective by which to describe the Christian life.”

—Ken Weliever, Excerpts from “A Passage to
Ponder: Gal. 2:20”, The Preacherman

A Good Name ...

"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches..." (Proverbs 22:1).

It generally takes years to build a good name, yet it is often destroyed in a thoughtless moment. The Proverb suggests that it is worth too much and is too precious to let that happen.

It is too precious to lend it to an ungodly cause.

It is too precious to tarnish or destroy our own by careless behavior.

It is too precious to our good friends and neighbors for us to destroy theirs by inappropriate words.

Once destroyed, it is harder to rebuild than it was to build it in the first place.

Edward O. Bragwell, Sr, 1-23-18

Giving Up a Life

Giving up a life is difficult to fathom.

More difficult to fathom is giving up a life for entirely selfless reasons.

More difficult to fathom is giving up a life for entirely selfless reasons when the ones you are giving it for would also count you as an enemy.

More difficult to fathom is giving up a life for entirely selfless reasons when the ones you are giving it for would also count you as an enemy and would abuse the very freedoms for which you died.

More difficult to fathom is giving up a life for entirely selfless reasons when the ones you are giving it for would also count you as a *friend* and would abuse the very freedoms for which you died.

"Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God" (1 Peter 2:16).

Doy Moyer, 5-27-19