



World Christian Fellowship

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Galatians

Lesson 15 Crucified yet Living- Part 2

Galatians 2:20-21, *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."*

Last lesson we did see that,

1. We must die to self
2. We must die to the will of men

3. We Must Die to Sin.

1 Peter 2:24, *who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness— by whose stripes you were healed.*

Once again, not only did Christ die for us, but now He requires us to die.

In this point I will run the risk of being misunderstood.

I know all too well that within myself there is no ability to be sinless.

I also totally understand that I am a sinner saved by the grace of God and that my salvation is not due to any work or merit of my own.

Without doubt, you also know and understand these truths in your own experience.

However, the Scriptures we are meditating tell us that we are no longer alone. We have the Spirit of God indwelling us, the nature of Christ influencing us, and the law of God instructing us.

Few Christians, in an attempt to show humility, say that they are just sinners saved by grace, that they just can't keep from sinning every day, but that their sin drives them to God in prayer for forgiveness. In fact, this sounds very much like the issue Paul addressed with the Church in Rome, "What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?" (Romans 6:1-2).

In ourselves we have no choice but to sin, as that is our nature, in Christ we have the ability to not sin, as that is His nature. The choice as to which nature we follow is now ours.

This also involves death in two senses:

a) We must Die to the guilt of Sin.

Romans 6:3-7, *Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?*⁴ *Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*⁵ *For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,*⁶ *knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*⁷ *For he who has died has been freed from sin.*

- ✓ The old man was crucified so the body of sin might be done away. (V6)
- ✓ We have died to sin being united in the likeness of His death. (V5-6)
- ✓ In physical death, the spirit departs from the body (James 2:26). In baptism, the body of sin is cut off from our soul. He who has died is justified from sin (V 7).

Romans 6:17-18, *But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.*¹⁸ *And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*

You become slaves of righteousness when you obey from your heart the teachings of God delivered to you. Results are that you are made free from sin. This includes baptism into Jesus' death (V 3&4). His death then forgives our sins (death to sin) and we are raised to walk in newness of life.

Has your old man of sin been crucified?

If not, you are still in sin, and this will lead to eternal death.

Romans 6:23, *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Either you are crucified with Jesus, thereby killing the guilt of sin, or it will kill you!

It is a matter of spiritual life and death.

b) We must Die to the practice of Sin.

Romans 6:1-2, *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ² Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?*

If we have died to sin and the guilt is removed.

Why return to the practice of sin?

Why allow it to continue to live in your life?

That is what some want to do. What good would it do to receive forgiveness, if we just return to sin?

Romans 8:13-14, *For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

Living after the flesh will lead to spiritual death. To avoid that death, we must put to death the deeds of the body (sin). We must be led by the Spirit through the Word of God and avoid sin. Otherwise, we will die.

Either sin dies or we die.

Let me give you an easy example to understand. Generally, in movies there is always a good guy, usually the hero and the bad guy, the villain. Everybody knows someone is going to die. It's either the hero or Villain.

You and I face a daily showdown with sin.
Either we kill it, or it will kill us.

Has sin been crucified in your life, or is it alive and well?
1 Corinthians 15:31, *I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.*

Colossians 3:3-14,

Dying to sin means we must die to all sin, not just some of it.

V 3-7, *For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. ⁵Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.*

We died to sin, so we should put to death these earthly members. Because they cause God's wrath to come upon us. When a body dies, all the members are dead. If some members are still alive, the body is not dead.

"Fornication, uncleanness, passion, and evil desire" - Put off, not just illicit sexual relations, but also the things that encourage them. Dirty movies and music, pornography, dancing, scanty and indecent garments. Have you put these to death?

"Covetousness" - greed and over-emphasis on material things.

Do you lie, steal, or cheat to get ahead in business?

Gamble?

Neglect your children, attendance, Bible study, or Godly teaching others for the sake of possessions or pleasure?

V 8-10 - *"Anger, wrath, malice"*

⁸ But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰ and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

Do you lose your temper and say cruel, hateful things to hurt others?

Do you seek vengeance to get even with people you think have harmed you?

Do you hold grudges and refuse to forgive even when people repent and ask your forgiveness?

"Blasphemy, filthy language, lying"

Do you stretch the truth or omit important facts in order to lead people to believe what is not true?

Do you slander people to hurt their reputation?

Do you tell dirty jokes, use profanity, or take God's name in vain?

V 11-14, ¹¹ *where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. ¹² Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. ¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.*

All these sins must be replaced with good habits.

"Tender mercies, kindness"

Do you try to put yourself in another person's place and consider their viewpoint?

If you must tell them they are wrong, do you do it from a sincere concern for them?

Some are quick to criticize others. Are we also quick to do it for the good of the other person, or just to win an argument, or just to get our own way?

"Humility and meekness"

Do we insist on our own way: "my way or no way." Do we submit humbly to God's will?

Do we give in to others, when we can do so without sinning?

Do we honestly recognize and admit our sins, or do we justify and rationalize?

"Longsuffering, forbearance, forgiveness"

When people apologize to us, do we really forgive, or do we continue to hold a grudge?

Do we from time to time drag out the memory of the old sin and remind the person who committed it and use it as a weapon to beat people with?

Above all, do we *"put on love"*

Do we really do what is best for others, or do we selfishly seek what we want?

Do we always act with goodwill for all who are involved?

To be crucified with Christ means to put sin to death. But the problem is that sin does not die easily. Even when we have been cleansed from guilt, and when we thought we put that bad habit or that bad attitude to death, it has a way of coming back to life. We must put to death all those sinful members and keep them there.

When we have totally, completely dedicated our lives to God - died to self - we will find it is much easier to die to sin and live to righteousness. When we find we are struggling continually overcoming some sin and becoming what God wants us to be, we must go back to the basics of our relationship with Jesus Christ and totally dedicate ourselves to His service. We must crucify ourselves.

Conclusion

2 Timothy 2:11, *This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him.*

To live with Jesus, we must die with Him.

We usually think that life comes first, then death.

But Jesus teaches that, spiritually you must die first, then you can live.

Eternal life comes only after we die to self, to the will of others, and to sin.

Galatians 5:16-18, *I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

1 Corinthians 9:27, *But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

Colossians 3:2-7, *Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. ⁵ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.*

It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;

This isn't merely pious religiosity talking but Paul is being sincere.

- ✓ What gives him life now,
- ✓ what energizes him,
- ✓ what fills him with purpose and passion

is not self but Christ!

The new life is a life of faith!

Paul is saying here that he has made a choice to not only let Jesus be his substitute on the Cross, but to let Jesus sub for him now in this life!

Rather than Paul's self-living on the front line he has backed out of the way and let Jesus who live within, step up and living his life.

WWJD - What Would Jesus Do

This is how Paul lived!

Paul is saying, I'll just get out of the way and let Jesus live through me for Paul it was **IWLJDI - I will let Jesus do it!**

V 21, I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."

Paul deals the death blow to the error of the Judaizers.

If righteousness comes through our own self effort, then Jesus died in vain. The cross ought to prove once and for all that works cannot attain salvation!

The righteousness Paul refers to in v. 21 speaks not only of the legal clearing of our guilt before God but also of the daily and practical righteousness which ought to mark the life of every believer.

Paul is clear, just as the forgiveness of our sins is a faith issue, so is our growth in grace. Practical righteousness is not to be attained by self-effort and coming up with our own set of rules and regulations. It is found by continuing to look to Christ by faith

- ✓ Jesus died for you. Have you died for Him?
- ✓ Have you died to self by truly denying yourself and committing your life to serving God?
- ✓ Have you died to the will of others, by determining to follow only Jesus' teaching in religion and obeying Him regardless of what others may want?
- ✓ Have you crucified the old man of sin by believing and being baptized?
- ✓ Are you daily crucifying the practice of sin in your life?
- ✓ "Have the nails pierced your hands and your feet?"
- ✓ Do not strive to be better, get out of the way and let Christ be better in you
- ✓ Stop trying to grow, get out of the way and let Christ live through you and the growth will happen
- ✓ In all your struggles and challenges, yield to Jesus and let Him take control, instead of you trying to steer the course of your own life through the troubled waters.