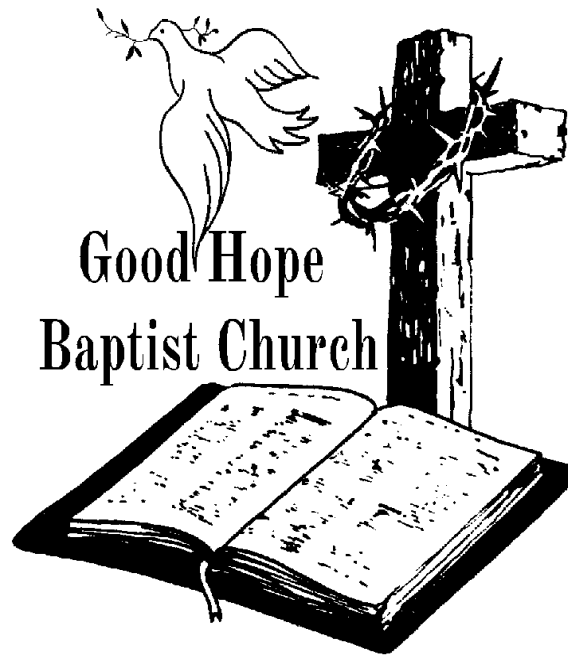


Crucified With Christ

Galatians 2:20



Living Together In The Love Of God

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FOCAL Read Together Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ

Dr John MacArthur gave a very wonderful illustration, and I want to open this sermon with it. He said:

"There is a preacher of the old school, but he speaks about as boldly as ever today. He's not very popular, even though the world is his parish, and he travels to every part of the globe, and he speaks in every language. He visits the poor. He visits the rich. He preaches to people of every religion, and he preaches to many of no religion. And the subject of his sermon is always the same. It never changes. He is an eloquent preacher, and he is able to stir emotions in hearts that are not emotional. He is able to bring tears to eyes that seldom weep. His arguments are beyond refutation. There is no heart that remains untouched and moved by the force of his appeals. This preacher shatters life. This preacher disturbs the status quo. Most people hate him. Everybody listens to him. His name is death. Every tombstone is his pulpit. Every newspaper prints his text. And one day you will be the subject of his sermon, and he will stand at your graveside and preach to others."

We as humans do not like the thought of death, though we are all - day by day - heading toward the end of this life. Humans approach death often in one of two different ways. We either try to *put it out of our minds*, or else we *make a caricature* of it.

This weekend - October 30th and 31st - is being

promoted as a two day Halloween event. Halloween is not a Christian holiday, but started out as a Celtic holiday called Samhain (pronounced Sah-ween). The Celts believed Samhain was a time when the division between the world of the living and the world of the dead became very thin, when hostile supernatural forces were active and ghosts and spirits were free to wander as they wished. Samhain eventually morphed into what we call "Halloween" today. Some children will dress up as princesses and frogs and other cute outfits and go door to door saying "Trick or Treat". Other children will dress in clothing that mimics and mocks death. They will be *ghosts or goblins or vampires or zombies*, creatures of fiction but caricatures of death.

It's all in fun, but there is a reality behind the "Trick or Treating". Death comes for us all. That's the *bad news*. Now, what's the *good news*? It is all bound into the phrase we're going to study today:

"I am crucified with Christ"

The worst form of execution ever invented is not "Old Smokie" or "Old Sparkie", names given to the **electric chair**. Though prisoners executed in the chair suffered, they died fairly quickly. Nor is the worst form of death **hanging, gas, firing squad, or lethal injection**. These forms of death were all relatively quick and painless. The worst form of death ever devised came from the ancient *Persians*. Alexander the Great and his generals brought it back to the Mediterranean world, then passed it on the Carthaginians. The Romans learned the practice from the Carthaginians.

Before crucifixion the guilty party was *scourged*, beaten with a whip laced with pieces of broken pottery. The executioner was very careful to strike the prisoner in areas that were painful, but not fatal. The prisoner was lashed to a post where the public could watch his humiliation.

Crucifixion was *very public*, and your dignity and pride were the first things beaten from you, along with your flesh and your clothing.

After being beaten, the prisoner was required to carry his cross outside the walls of the city. Most people executed in this way were left on the Cross even after death as a grisly warning to other would be offenders. The decaying and diseased corpse would bring infection into the city, thus the crucified were always led "**outside the camp**".

1. "I Am Crucified With Christ" Does Away With The "Easy Believism" Of The Modern Church

FOCAL Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me:

There is a teaching that has infiltrated Christianity within the last few years. Teachers of this doctrine say that a person may be saved *without* bending the knee to Christ. They say that you may be saved by believing that Jesus Christ died for you, and once believing that you can continue as you did *before* you were saved, living as you did *before* you were saved. There's a Greek word for this

teaching, and it is *hogwash!*

Crucifixion is public, painful, and prideless.
Crucifixion is only committed on the guilty. If I am saved, I am crucified with Christ!

Those who were crucified were taken to a public place outside the walls of the city. Those who were crucified were nailed - hands and feet - to a cross made of wood. Over their head was nailed a sign called a **titulus**, a short description as to why this person was being executed. When Jesus Christ was crucified His betrayer, **Judas Iscariot**, said:

Matthew 27:4 .. I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. ..

When the **Roman Governor Pilate** ordered Christ's execution, he washed his hands and declared:

Matthew 27:24 ... I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.

Jesus Christ was beaten, then forced to carry His Cross. He publicly walked through the jeering crowds, being spat on and humiliated. He was nailed to the Cross, raised and set on the hill called Calvary, and there He hung naked and bleeding.

John 19:19-22 And Pilate wrote a title {a titulus}, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. 20 This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where

Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin. 21 Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews. 22 Pilate answered, What I have written I have written.

Pilate could find no sin in Christ, so His Titulus merely said - in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin - "**Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews**". Even unbelieving Pilate realized that the Lord was crucified for His people, and not for Himself. The Pharisees sought to have the Titulus changed. "**Modify it, Pilate, so it says "He said He was the King of the Jews"**". In so doing they could make it seem as if Jesus were justly crucified, that He was a traitor to His people and to the Roman realm. Pilate refused. "**What I have written, I have written**".

Jesus hung on this Cross, and as He hung there for no sin of His own He was offered

Mark 15:23 wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not.

Jesus took a death upon Himself that He did not deserve. He would not take the myrrh mingled with wine, a mild analgesic mixture designed to dull the pain of crucifixion. He took the full weight of the Cross upon Himself *for us*.

"I am crucified with Christ". My faith is public and clear. I am **with Christ on that Cross**. Though the world may mock, I am with Him.

"I am crucified with Christ". The issue of my life is not what others are doing or not doing. Jesus told the Pharisees:

Matthew 7:3 ... And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

The Pharisees died and went to a devil's hell because they were too concerned about what others were doing. They never looked at their *own lives* and gave their *own lives* to the Lord Jesus.

ILLUSTRATE A young couple moves into a new neighborhood. The next morning while they are eating breakfast, the young woman sees her neighbor hanging the wash outside. **"That laundry is not very clean,"** she said. **"She doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap."** Her husband looked on, but remained silent. Every time her neighbor would hang her wash to dry, the young woman would make the same comments. About one month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband: **"Look, she has learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this?"** The husband said, **"I got up early this morning and *cleaned our windows.*"**

If the Pharisees had cleaned their own windows first, they would not have died in their sins.

"I am crucified with Christ", not **"My family is crucified with Christ"** or **"My Church is crucified with Christ"**. You will not go to Heaven because you have godly parents or a godly spouse.

Salvation is intensely personal and intensely public. I make the decision to be crucified with Christ, to be saved. I recognize that He died on that Cross for *my sins*. I put myself under the titulus that says **"Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews"**. I hang with Jesus, trusting and believing, hidden from none but open to all.

There were two thieves crucified on either side of Jesus. One thief chose to mock Christ, saying **"If thou be Christ save Thyself and us"**. Jesus could not save Himself, for He came to die for our sins. Jesus could not save the unrepentant thief because God never forgives unrepented sin. Yet the other thief, rebuking his companion, said:

Luke 23:40-42 ... Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? {41} And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. {42} And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

It was to this thief – the one who **called upon the Name of Jesus** – that the Lord said:

Luke 23:43 ... Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou

be with me in paradise.

There are many people in this life that say to Jesus, "Save Yourself and us". They come to Jesus in easy believism looking for the "Dollar Store Skin Deep Salvation".

Easy Believism started with the thief on the left of Christ. Easy believism says to Jesus "Save me from this moment, from this hospital bed, from this impending death, from this valley of life". True salvation, on the other hand, repents and says "Lord, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom". Easy believism uses Jesus as a *convenience*. True salvation surrenders to Jesus as Lord!

Dear friends, we all stand as individuals before God Almighty, and He says to each and every one of us **"YOU must be born again (John 3:7)**. The Bible does not say **"The world is crucified with Christ"**, though some believe that they are saved because they – by default – are not something other than a Christian. Some believe that since they are not Muslim or Jewish that they must certainly be Christian. Yet this is not so. As every pot stands on its own bottom, each person must stand before God based on his or her relationship with Christ.

Christianity is a *living faith* in a *living Lord*, and it changes those who surrender to it.

"I am crucified with Christ". You cannot be forced to

be a Christian, but it must be an act of willing faith in Him. The Bible tells us that Jesus, as He was carrying His Cross to Golgotha, became so weak that He could go no further. We read:

Matthew 27:32 And as {the Roman guards} came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.

Simon the Cyrene was forced to carry the Cross of Christ, but there is no indication in Scripture that this man was ever saved by faith in Him. You are offered salvation freely - will you call on Him?

Romans 10:13 For **whosoever shall call upon the name of the LORD shall be saved.**

You must make the decision either to accept or reject Him. You will not enter a place of Eternal torment – a place called HELL – because of the action or inaction of your neighbor. Those who enter hell choose to do so because they willingly refused to call upon the Name of the Lord Jesus.

No person is predestined to Heaven, and no person is predestined to hell. We are given a choice.

FOCAL Galatians 2:20 **I am crucified with Christ...**

Christ died for our sins to save us. We die to ourselves in order to be saved. Christ willingly laid down on that Cross to pay our penalty. We willingly kneel at His nail scarred feet, receiving as a free gift what He has done for

us. Christ crucified was mocked by the world. **"If You be the Son of God, come down from that Cross"**. Those near to Him cried, **"You saved others, why not save Yourself?"**

The point of crucifixion is *pain, separation, and death*. **I am crucified with Christ.**

It is painful to admit that I am a sinner, yet the Bible demands you recognize this is the reason that Jesus Christ was crucified. We read:

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet SINNERS, Christ died for us.

It is painful for me to admit that there is nothing worthy in me - that I am, apart from Christ, **ungodly**:

Romans 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the UNGODLY.

It is painful to admit that there is *nothing I can do to save myself - I must rely on Jesus and what He did*. Look at what the Apostle wrote in our context:

CONTEXT Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

A person who is crucified has his hands and his feet nailed to the Cross.

If my hands and feet are nailed to the Cross, then I can do nothing good. It is not goodness that saves me, but the Grace of Christ. **I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live.**

I am justified - declared righteous - not because of what my hands and feet do, but because of what innocent Jesus Christ did on my behalf. I am not righteous because I keep the Law. I am righteous because Christ kept the Law, then died for my sins.

This is why the Apostle closed this chapter by saying:

CONTEXT Galatians 2:21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

WORD STUDY It "frustrates" the Grace of God when I say "I must keep the Law in order to be righteous". The word "frustrate" is the Greek *Present Active Indicative verb* ATHETEO (αθετεω pronounced ath-et-eh'-o), which means "to set aside, to disesteem, to neutralize".

Apart from the crucifixion of Christ no man is justified in the eyes of God. Righteousness cannot come to us by being moral, nor by keeping any Law of God or man. There is but one Law that God recognizes when it comes to our salvation. The Law of Grace. You enter into the

Law of Grace by saying "I am crucified with Christ". Jesus died for my shortcomings and sin. I recognize my shortcoming and sin. I *publicly, open to all, admit my shortcoming and sin*, and cast myself upon Him. **I am crucified with Christ.**

2. If I Am Crucified With Christ Then Jesus Christ Lives In Me

FOCAL Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me:

ILLUSTRATE A man goes to the doctor and says, "Doc, you gotta check my leg. Something's wrong. Just put your ear up to my thigh, you'll hear it!" The doctor cautiously placed his ear to the man's thigh only to hear: "Gimme 20 bucks, I really need 20 bucks." "That's amazing!" exclaims the doctor. "That's nothing, Doc. Put your ear to my knee." The doctor put his ear to the man's knee and heard it say: "Man, I really need 10 dollars, just lend me 10 bucks!" The doctor was dumbfounded. "Sir, I really don't know what to tell you. I've never come across anything like this." "Wait Doc, that's not all. There's more, just put your ear to my ankle," the man urged. The doctor did so and was blown away to hear his ankle plead: "Please, I just need 5 dollars. Only 5 bucks. Please!!" "I have no idea what to tell you," the doctor said. He frantically searched all his medical reference books. "There's nothing about it in here." The doctor thought hard for a moment and then said, "Let me try to make a well educated

guess. Based on my previous experience, I can tell you this much: your leg seems to be broke in three places."

Dear friends, God uses the broken. Once you acknowledge you are broken and come to the Lord Jesus, casting yourself upon Him, then you can say with Paul "**nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me**".

a Christ is alive in the Christian, and that makes you valuable!

ILLUSTRATE A little boy was walking down the street with his daddy when he saw a penny lying on the sidewalk. The three year old became so excited, he reached down and grabbed it. He could have been no happier if it were a thousand dollars. "**Daddy, Daddy,**" he cried. "**Look what I found -- a penny!**"

You may have walked past pennies before and thought nothing of it. After all, it's just a worthless penny. Or is it? In **1943 during World War II** copper was desperately needed for wiring in our aircraft and other military equipment. Because of that the U.S. Mint directed that pennies be stamped out of zinc coated steel. There were tens of millions of pennies made of steel in 1943, and most are worth only a few cents each today. **There were about 20 pennies that were erroneously struck in bronze that year at the**

Philadelphia and San Francisco Mints, and only one was struck in bronze in the Denver Mint. The Denver 1943 D penny was found and sold by a collector for *1.7 Million Dollars*.

What made that 1943 penny valuable wasn't the image of Lincoln on it - it was *what it was minted out of*.

The great Chinese Evangelist **Watchman Nee** said "**Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with the resurrection**". Christ died on that Cross, but He didn't stay dead. He rose again on the third day, and now lives within His people.

Dear Christian, you have value because of Christ. God is with you where ever you go. The Bible says:

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

It is Christ Who saved me. **I am crucified with Christ.** It is Christ Who enables me. **Nevertheless I live - yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.** We are not the same as we were before.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

b Christ is alive in the Christian, and this means that Jesus is with me no matter what happens in life.

ILLUSTRATE I'm sure you've all heard of the store **J. C. Penny's**, but you may not have heard of the man. James Cash Penny was a very wealthy man. When the Stock Market crashed in 1929 J.C. Penny became deathly ill from the stress. He lost *forty million dollars* and was *seven million dollars* in debt. Penny wrote, "**I was convinced I would never see another dawn. I wrote farewell letters to my family. Then I waited for the end, a failure at the age of 56**". But God wasn't done with J.C. Penny. While at the Battle Creek Sanitarium in Michigan he heard several residents singing:

**Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
God will take care of you;
beneath His wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.**

**God will take care of you,
through every day, o'er all the way;
He will take care of you,
God will take care of you.**

**All you may need He will provide,
God will take care of you;
nothing you ask will be denied,
God will take care of you.**

**God will take care of you,
through every day, o'er all the way;
He will take care of you,
God will take care of you.**

J.C. Penny decided to trust the Lord Jesus Christ with his life. He not only survived, he lived into his nineties, and built an empire through the J.C. Penny's Stores. We read:

FOCAL Galatians 2:20 ... and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Jesus Christ "**who loved me, and gave Himself for me**". He now lives *in me*. Therefore I do not live by *feeling* but by the *fact of faith*. I rest in Him. I rest in prayer. I rest in His Word.

Some days I feel good, other days I feel bad. Some days I'm on top of the world, and on other days the world rolls over top of me. If I'm a Christian who lives by "feelings" I will forever be plagued with doubts and fears. What did the Psalmist say?

Psalms 16:8 I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Set the Lord before you. Look to Him, for He is faithful to do as He has promised. Live by faith in the faithfulness of God! The Apostle – giving very practical advice to the Hebrew Christians – said:

Hebrews 12:1-2 ... let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, {2} Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;...

ILLUSTRATE A man was moving his library upstairs, and his little boy wanted to help. His father told him to go and get an armful, and bring them upstairs. When the father came back, he met the little fellow about half-way up, tugging away at the biggest book in the library. He couldn't manage to carry it up. It was too big. He was collapsed on the stairs, crying. His father told him, "**Put out your hands**". He put the book in his son's arms, then picked the child and the book up, carrying both upstairs.

C Christ is alive in the Christian, so I shall never die!
Dear friends, you shall never begin to live until you're not afraid to die. **I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live.** As Christ lives, so shall I live. Jesus said to John the Revelator:

Revelation 1:17-18 Fear not; I am the first and the last: 18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Jesus Christ "**liveth, and was dead, and is ALIVE FOREVERMORE**". If you are saved by faith in Christ liveth in me.

If Christ **liveth in me** and Christ **is alive forever more** then **I am alive forever more! Glory be to God!**

Jesus told His disciples:

John 14:18-19 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. 19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth

me no more; but ye see me: **because I live, ye shall live also.**

Because He lives, I shall live also. That beautiful song "**Because He Lives**" says:

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus
He came to love, heal, and forgive.
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.
Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives, All fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

May God touch your hearts with His Word!



FOCAL Read Together Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ

1. "I Am Crucified With Christ" Does Away With The "Easy Believism" Of The Modern Church

Galatians 2:20; Matthew 27:4; Matthew 27:24; John 19:19-22; Mark 15:23 ; Matthew 7:3; Luke 23:40-42; Luke 23:43; Matthew 27:32; Romans 10:13; Romans 5:8; Romans 5:6; Galatians 2:16; Galatians 2:21

Crucifixion is public, painful, and prideless. **"I am crucified with Christ"**. My faith is public and clear. I am with Christ on that Cross. Though the world may mock, I am with Him.

WORD STUDY It "frustrates" the Grace of God when I say **"I must keep the Law in order to be righteous"**. The word "frustrate" is the Greek *Present Active Indicative verb* **ATHETEO** (αθετεω pronounced ath-et-eh'-o), _____

2. If I Am Crucified With Christ Then Jesus Christ Lives In Me

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me:

a Christ is alive in the Christian, _____

Philippians 4:13; 2 Corinthians 5:17

Chinese Evangelist Watchman Nee: "Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with the resurrection".

b Christ is alive in the Christian, _____

Galatians 2:20; Psalms 16:8; Hebrews 12:1-2

Jesus Christ **"who loved me, and gave Himself for me"**. He now lives *in me*. Therefore I do not live by *feeling* but by the *fact of faith*. I rest in Him. I rest in prayer. I rest in His Word.

c Christ is alive in the Christian, _____

Revelation 1:17-18; John 14:18-19
