

LifeLines April 29, 2024

Today's Scripture: 1 Verse

Galatians 2:19b-20

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me, and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me & gave Himself for me.

WHY WE'RE HERE

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is inspired by God & is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

CONTEXT

In the first chapter, Paul reviewed his experience of “meeting” Christ & its impact. He also reviewed meetings with the other disciples in an effort to preserve unity in what all of them were teaching. In Chapter 2, Paul confronted the Galatians who were becoming victims of false teachers. False teachers were telling them that faith in Christ was not enough to be saved. They were being led away from the doctrine of justification by faith in Christ alone. He challenged the Galatians to “get their heads on straight” about their beliefs & intentions of depending on faith or the law. This was one of the goals of Paul’s letter.

Some consider this verse to be Paul’s most declarative statement about what happens when someone is saved or justified by putting their faith in Christ.

DIFFERENT VERSIONS (Versions not listed are similar to the NRSV or to versions shown below.)

AMP

I have been crucified with Christ [that is, in Him I have shared His crucifixion]; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. The *life* I now live in the body I live by faith [by adhering to, relying on, & completely trusting] in the Son of God, who loved me & gave Himself up for me.

CJB

I died to the tradition of Torah, so that I might live in direct relationship with God. When the Messiah was executed on the stake as a criminal, I was, too; so that my proud ego no longer

lives. But the Messiah lives in me, & the life I now live in my body I live by the same trusting faithfulness that the Son of God had, who loved me & gave Himself up for me.

EASY

Christ died on the cross on my behalf. It is like I died there with Him. So I do not live my own life any more. Instead, Christ lives in me. The life that I live now in my body, I live because I trust what He has done for me. He has loved me so much that he died on my behalf.

ERV

I died to the law, so that I might live to God. So I am not the one living now – it is Christ living in me. I still live in my body, but I live by faith in the Son of God. He is the One who loved me & gave Himself to save me.

GW

I have been crucified with Christ. I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live I live by believing in God's Son, who loved me & took the punishment for my sins.

KJV

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet, not I, but Christ liveth in me: & the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, & gave Himself for me.

MSG

So I quit being a “law man” so that I could be *God's* man. Christ's life showed me how & enabled me to do it. I identified myself completely with Him. Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, & I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not “mine,” but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me & gave Himself for me.

NCV

I was put to death on the cross with Christ, & I do not live anymore – it is Christ who lives in me. I still live in my body, but I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me & gave Himself to save me.

NirV

I have been crucified with Christ. I don't live any longer. Christ lives in me. My faith in the Son of God helps me to live my life in my body. He loved me. He gave Himself for me.

NLT

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me & gave Himself for me.

SELAH

BREAKING DOWN THE VERSE

I have been crucified with Christ... Paul doesn't refer to his physical death, but to the death of his former self & his former thoughts, ways & behavior. This phrase is symbolic for the spiritual truth of being united with Christ. Being crucified with Christ means we are no longer under the penalty of the Law, because that penalty was paid by Christ on our behalf.

And it is no longer I who live... Paul learned quickly to surrender & submit to the will of God in Christ Jesus. Some of us are a bit more stubborn. We still think we can manage on our own. Paul was given an assignment completely impossible without God, so he surrendered, saying, "You'll have to guide me, instruct me, lead me. I can do nothing on my own, so You do it through me!" We can do the same thing.

Before his conversion, Paul wanted to please God by *keeping* the law, but he wasn't *living for God*. Are our lives examples of lives being lived for God?

but it is Christ who lives in me... Teenage boys & young men of Jesus' day often chose a rabbi to follow. They studied under that rabbi learning to emulate him in all ways. Often, they sounded like him, walked like him, thought like him & developed similar mannerisms. In the same way, Paul committed to become so internally identified with Jesus that he felt he had died with Him, allowing Jesus *to live through him*. The risen Christ in us empowers us to live for God in a way that pleases Him. This passage also refers to the presence of the Holy Spirit which inspires obedience to the gospel.

and the life I now live in the flesh... Paul uses the term "in the flesh" to refer to his mortal body. Paul lived in a body of flesh, as we do. We even continue to have fleshly ways. Even though we live in the flesh of our body, we can still depend on Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, to direct & guide our thoughts, desires, affections, words, decisions, actions, everything. It is our faith that enables these things.

I live by faith in the Son of God... Paul trusted Christ's wisdom, strength & sustenance to see him through every ordeal ahead. It was as if he said, "Jesus, I'll do what you tell me & lead me to do, so I'm handing the reins over to you. This is Your show. Use me as You will. I'm living strictly by my faith in You!"

Like Paul, we learn that faith doesn't only save us at the initial point of our salvation. We live by faith *every* day. Our lives are now directed by our faith in Christ, not our former sinful selves. We have been made joint heirs with Christ. Faith in the Son of God transforms us from a slave to sin to a child of God. We used to seek life through our own works & efforts, but now we "live by faith in the Son of God."

who loved me & gave Himself for me... Jesus gave His life for Paul & each of us. He is worthy of our trust. By faith, we trust that Christ's death paid for our personal sin. In that way *we* are crucified with Him. The sinful part of *who we used to be* was nailed on the cross with Him. That sinful part of us died & was replaced by the resurrected Christ *in us*.

SELAH

RELATED VERSES (Verses are NRSV unless otherwise stated. What verses come to *your* mind?)

Matthew 10:38, And whoever does not take up the cross & follow Me is not worthy of Me.

John 15:13-14, No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you.

Romans 5:8, But God proves His love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

Romans 6:1-3, What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

Romans 6:4, Therefore we have been buried with Him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:5, For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we will certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.

Romans 6:6-7, We know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, & we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin.

Romans 6:8, But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him.

2 Corinthians 4:10, Always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

2 Corinthians 5:17, So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

2 Corinthians 5:21, For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 10:5b, And we take every thought captive to obey Christ.

Galatians 1:4, (The Lord Jesus Christ) who gave Himself for our sins to set us free from the present evil age, according to the will of our God & Father.

Galatians 5:16, Live by the Spirit, I say, & do not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Galatians 5:24-25, And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions & desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Galatians 6:14, May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, & I to the world.

Ephesians 2:8-9, For by grace you have been saved through faith, & this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 4:22-24, You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt & deluded by its lusts, & be renewed in the spirit of your minds, & to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness & holiness.

Ephesians 5:2, And live in love, as Christ loved us & gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering & sacrifice to God.

Colossians 1:24, I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, & in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of His body, the church.

Colossians 3:3-4, For you have died, & your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

Colossians 3:5a, Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly:

2 Timothy 2:11, The saying is sure: If we have died with Him, we will also live with Him.

Revelation 5:12, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power & wealth & wisdom & might & honor & glory & blessing.”

SUMMARY

Every day our life must be lived by trusting in Christ. For Paul, all his intentions, plans, goals, & dreams became centered on *fulfilling Jesus’ goal* of reaching out to all nations & making disciples. He was determined not to let anything stand in his way. The only way to do that was to immerse himself so fully in Christ that Christ would rule in his heart & live through him to reach Jews & Gentiles alike.

Jesus died in our place. Once someone is dead, they are dead to everything in this world, including the law. Through Christ, Paul determined to die to the law & be like Jesus in His death. Paul’s decision freed him to “live to God.”

Paul is not the only one called to this mission. We are, too! Christ lives in believers, in us! Once we’re fully committed to Jesus Christ He lives in us. Our faith in Christ & our desire to please Him propels us forward through each minute of our days. If we find ourselves thinking, “I can’t do this on my own. I need help,” that plea summons the Holy Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit steps in because of our faith & trust. *Jesus told us to call on Him for help*. Hand the reins over to Jesus like Paul did. Christ lived & died for us. Ask Him to live for *you*, to live through *you*, to help *you* through whatever the day or challenge brings – sickness, despair, chemo, bedside vigil, disappointment, unanswered questions, unbelieving family members, surgery, addiction, regret. He died to free us from & comfort us through *all* these things & more.

CONCLUSION

Being crucified with Christ means we have a new commitment. We’re dedicated to serving & glorifying the Lord. This dedication replaces living to self & any commitment that interferes with following our Savior. At one time, we followed the ways of the world. That life in us was nailed to the cross! Now we follow *the pioneer & perfecter of our faith* (Hebrews 12:2).

Jesus, the Lamb of God, loves us so much & is worthy of all our trust. Whom could we trust more? Because He gave us life, we can trust Him to lead us *through* that life. Jesus is the basis of our relationship with God. That relationship is not based on keeping rules but in surrendering to Jesus & His sacrificial death, just as Paul did. It’s the only thing that accounts for our justification and right standing before God. Only our faith in Jesus justifies us before the Father. Now, we have power to say “no” to sin & “yes” to God.

It’s vital that we trust in Christ’s crucifixion as payment for our sins & sin penalty. In the same way, we trust in & rely on His power to live in a way that pleases God. The emphasis is not on what *we* have done, are doing or should do. The emphasis is on what *He* has done for us. It’s accepting what He has done for us so that we are free to live a life pleasing to God. To do otherwise is to slip back into striving to please Him through our own power & works of *the law*. A *works* mentality will never *work* or please God! He saved us by His *grace* through our *faith*!

SCRIPTURE IS OUR –

LifeLine!

Let Galatians 2:19b-20 be a *LifeLine* for you.

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me, and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me & gave Himself for me.

Take a few minutes to think about this LifeLine & our discussion.

1. Write something you want to remember about this LifeLine:

2. Write one thing you feel compelled to share with someone? Whom will it be?

3. How & when will you share with that person?
