

January 20, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Gal. 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (NIV)*

Now someone might ask, how could Paul, who was still alive, claim that he was crucified with Christ? The answer is found in the preceding verse where Paul explains that he died to the law so that he could live for God. This was a poignant statement to all of those who felt that keeping the laws of God would make us holy in God's sight. And it certainly would if we could keep all the law, all the time. But everyone knows that we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory. The Jewish people seemed to have a love for the law over a love for the Law Giver; religion over relationship.

What Paul was saying is that there was an exchange made on the cross. Paul gave up his religious life for a new life in Christ Jesus. Jesus would now live in Paul by His Holy Spirit. This new life cannot be lived by continuing to focus on the law, but again the focus is a relationship with the One Who gave the law. It is a desire of the heart. Once we have given ourselves over to the Lordship of Christ, we will desire to do what He says, rather than trying to do what He says to win His love and acceptance. The whole focus of this verse is not the keeping of the law, but instead enjoying a relationship with the One Who gave the law so that we live in His law by faith. Paul stated this when he said, ***"I live by faith in the Son of God."***

Paul realizes the priority of real and true life which is only found in Christ Jesus. It is in the Spirit of Christ that we begin to walk by faith, speak the truth in love, become givers and not takers, and see things from God's perspective instead of our own. He no longer felt like he was verified by his past accomplishment and vigorous religious training. Instead, He now has real life found in the only One Who could truly give him this life.

Dear LORD, help us to understand today that we need to give up our selfish desires so that we can live for You. You have such great plans for us. You desire to bless us and show us Your glory. Help us to walk by faith today and not by sight. In Jesus Name, Amen