

Crucified With Christ

Galatians 2:20

A. Introduction

1. Scripture avoids graphic, tear-jerking accounts of Jesus' crucifixion.
2. Ancient secular writers commonly felt crucifixion totally revolting, sickening experience.
 - a. Very little detailed account despite how common it was.
 - b. We will not delve into the specifics either, but it makes a very enlightening study.
3. Sufficient to say Christ's death on the cross was a brutal & tragic event.
4. It was completely unjustifiable & unfair.
5. But aren't you glad our gracious God allowed it to happen?

B. Discussion

1. Christ was crucified to spare my life (Ga. 3:1).

- a. He came to earth to save us from sin (Mt. 1:21).
- b. **(Lu. 19:10)** Gave up glory of heaven to "come" and "seek."
- c. Gave up the divine image in so doing **(Ph. 2:5-7)**.
- d. Gave up His life (Jn. 10:17-18).
- e. **< Quote from Nikolaus Ludvig von Zinzendorf >**

2. I am crucified with Christ (Ga. 2:19-20).

- a. When Jesus died:
 - 1) He became insensible to surrounding objects, as all dead do;
 - 2) He ceased to see and hear.
- b. When Paul was crucified with Christ:
 - 1) He became insensible to the law as means of justification;
 - 2) He became insensible to the world & its passions.
- c. Christ lived in Paul
 - 1) Christ's principles guided the thoughts, words, & actions of the apostle.
 - 2) (Jn. 15) "Vine & Branches" Juices of the vine are in each branch & leaf.

3. My flesh is crucified (Ga. 5:24).

- a. "Crucify" (*estaiúroosan*)
 - 1) Literal – "to impale on the cross"
 - 2) Figurative – "to extinguish passion or selfishness"
- b. **(Ro. 6:6)** Death of fleshly lusts sets me free from sin's bondage!
- c. *Out Of My Bondage* (#529) – Notice the "out of's" and "into's."

4. The world is crucified unto me (Ga. 6:14).

- a. Former passions have faded because of the perspective of the new man that I am.
- b. The more we contemplate the sufferings our dear Redeemer met with from the world the less likely shall we be to be in love with it!
- c. The passion that divides my interest – my time & abilities – from the Lord & His church is the passion that will resurrect the old man of sin!

5. I am crucified unto the world (Ga. 6:14).

- a. When I truly crucify my attachment to this world:
 - 1) This world will, in some way, turn on me.
 - 2) **(1 Jn. 3:1)** Why does this come as a surprise?
 - 3) Jesus would not have been crucified if the world understood Him!
 - 4) So, if we are seeking to walk in His footsteps...
- b. Same world Christ & Paul lived in.
- c. If we imitate their righteousness & faith, what can we expect as a result?
- d. When the world misunderstands & mistreats us, point #4 will be more joyous!
- e. **(Mt. 5:11-12)** You are in good company
- f. Maybe a bad sign if *EVERYONE* loves you!

C. Conclusion

1. Paul felt identified with Christ.
 - a. He was willing to experience the contempt & rejection associated w/ crucifixion.
 - b. He expresses it beautifully in **Philippians 3:8-11**.
2. Always pain associated w/ crucifying the flesh.
3. Better to experience a little suffering here than an eternity in the hereafter.
4. Thanks be to God, the death of Christ can save your soul tonight!
5. Crucify your old self...
 - a. Bury that old self with Christ in baptism.
 - b. Arise to walk redeemed & whole!

Nikolaus Ludvig von Zinzendorf

“Do you think it was self-denial for the Lord Jesus to come down from heaven to rescue a world: Was it self-denial? No, it was love – love that swallows up everything, and first of all itself.”