CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

**DATE: 7/15/2015 Wed.**

**TEXT: Galatians 2:19 - 21**

**INTRODUCTION**

Paulnow bring chapter 2 to a close with what I would consider one of the greatest verses in the NT (**v.20**)

In the previous verses, Paul is using a situation in the past in which he dealt with Peter about the folly of living under the Law

Paul’s contention with Peter was that if salvation is by faith in Christ alone …

Why was he now trying to bring the works of the Law back into the picture

Paul clearly states that Christians no longer need to trust in the Law because we now have the Finished work of Christ

Paul now draws a practical conclusion and deals with the fact that the believer is dead to the Law

And anyone who lives under the Law, lives under the condemnation of death

However, in Christ the Law has been satisfied by our Saviour

Therefore, we are dead to the Law and raised to live in newness of life

Let’s stand and read **vs. 19-21** and then pray

Let’s think on this thought tonight …

***“Crucified with Christ”***

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “PENALTY OF THE LAW” – v.19**

***“For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God”***

Although one cannot be saved by keeping the Law,

It does, nevertheless play an important role in bringing the sinner to Christ

**I Timothy 1:8** says – ***“But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully”***

Paul was brought up under the Law and had tried to satisfy its demands of righteousness

Turn to **Philippians 3:4-9 …**

Though he had excelled at it, he still came up short

It always comes down to man's righteousness verses Christ's righteousness

**A. The Place of the Law**

When Paul said – ***“I through the law am dead to the law” …***

He was saying that the Law had placed the death sentence upon Him

Paul deals with this in the book of Romans

**Romans 7:7-13 …**

**1.** The Law ‘Reveals’ Sin **– v.7**

**2.** The Law ‘Revived’ Sin **– v.8**

**3.** The Law ‘Ruins’ Sinners **– vs. 9-11**

**4.** The Law ‘Reflects’ Sin – **vs. 12, 13**

**B. The Purpose of the Law**

When a man attempts to live by the Law, it always results in death

The Law had killed Paul in the sense that it found him guilty and pronounced a death sentence upon him

Paul had broken the Law and therefore he stood guilty before God

This is the Purpose of the Law

The Law shows us that we cannot become good enough to get to Heaven by keeping it

**James 2:10 –** *“****For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all”***

No matter how hard we try, or even how far we get,

… We still come up short

**Romans 3:23 *– “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”***

God never intended for the keeping of the Law to save us, but rather to show us that we need Christ

**Galatians 3:24, 25 – *“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster”***

The Law is designed to teach man his sinfulness and inadequacy to satisfy a Holy God

Thus, causing him to trust in Christ and be justified by faith

**THE “PENALTY OF THE LAW”**

**II. OUR “PERSONAL CRUCIFIXION” – v.20a**

**A. The Believer’s Position**

***“I am crucified with Christ...”***

When Jesus Christ died on the cross the believer was also crucified with Him

(That) **Positionally** - *to place somebody or yourself in a particular or suitable area, place, or situation*

The Bible teaches that Positionally we died, rose, ascended, and are now seated with Jesus in Heaven

Let’s look at 2 passages that confirm this

**Roman 6:3-6 …**

**Ephesians 2:1-6 …**

In Christ the believer is dead to the penalty of sin because Jesus bore that Penalty as our substitute

Because we are in Christ, we are dead to the sin and the flesh

In these passages the Bible speaks of a specific act of Almighty God in every believer when he comes to Christ as his Saviour

And *as far as God is concerned* every believer's old nature is dead and nailed to the cross

**B. The Believer’s Responsibility**

**Galatians 5:24 – *“And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts”***

We see here that it is the believer’s responsibility to recognize that they are crucified

**Romans 6:12 – *“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord”***

God *has declared* the believer dead in Christ

Now it is our responsibility to *“****reckon”*** our own selves dead

It is not enough to be declared crucified and dead

We must by faith reckon it to be true in our own life

The word ***“reckon”*** means *to count, to number, to calculate*

It is a bookkeeping term

The idea is that of reconciling a checkbook

We take the bank statement and our checkbook, sit down and make the checkbook agree with the bank statement

That is what God is saying when He commands that we **“*reckon*”** ourselves to be dead

God has already declared it to be so

The only thing left is for us to bring our life in line with His Word

Reckoning is the step of faith that acknowledges what God says about me in the Bible is now true in my life

**THE “PENALTY OF THE LAW”**

**OUR “PERSONAL CRUCIFIXION”**

**III. THE “PARADOX CONFIRMED” – v.20b**

***“nevertheless I live”***

This is indeed a paradox! (a contradiction)

Crucifixion results in death!

Paul has been crucified, yet he is living

How can that be? The answer is simple!

Paul was now living the resurrected life

The old man had been rendered powerless and Paul was now walking in newness of life

**Romans 6:6 *– “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin”***

Real life starts when we are saved

**Romans 6:14 – *“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace”***

Since we are no longer slaves to sin we can live a new life

**THE “PENALTY OF THE LAW”**

**OUR “PERSONAL CRUCIFIXION”**

**THE “PARADOX CONFIRMED”**

**IV. OUR “PRESENT COMPANION” – v. 20** (remainder)

**A. His Finished Work**

Paul finishes **v.20** by saying – ***“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,***

This new life is the result of the resurrection of Jesus Christ

It is not because we have been able to keep the Law and overcome death

It is all because Christ died and rose again

It is entirely by His and not our works

Think carefully about these words

Paul said – ***“Christ liveth in me”***

The night before Jesus was crucified He told His disciples,

**John 14:19, 20 – *“Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also” “At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you”***

Every believer can say, Christ liveth in me

The Bible declares **in Col. 1:27 – *“Christ in you, the hope of glory:”***

**B. His Great Love**

***“who loved me, and gave Himself for me”***

**THE “PRACTICAL CONCLUSION” – v.21**

***“I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain”***

The word ***“frustrate”*** means *to set aside, nullify, or make void*

Any trust in religious rituals or good works for salvation nullifies the Grace God

Therefore, to trust in any form of religious works is to nullify Grace

It frustrates the Grace of God because if a man could earn salvation, then God must give him what he deserves

However, the very nature of Grace is that God gives us what we do not deserve

Paul said – ***“if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain”***

The word ***“vain”*** means *without a cause, rendered useless*

Paul put it this way in **Romans 4:4 – *“Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt”***

A works salvation nullifies the Grace principle and renders Christ's death on the cross useless and empty because if we can get to Heaven by good works then God would not have to have given His Son for us