

Sermon: Death and Life

Bible Passage: Galatians 2:19b-20

Verse: Χριστῷ (dative of association) συνεσταύρωμαι· (perfect tense which emphasizes the completed action of a past action or process which a present state emerges) 20 ζῶ δὲ οὐκέτι ἐγώ, ζῆ δὲ ἐν ἐμοὶ Χριστός· ὃ δὲ νῦν ζῶ ἐν σαρκί, ἐν πίστει ζῶ τῆ τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ θεοῦ τοῦ ἀγαπήσαντός με καὶ παραδόντος ἑαυτὸν ὑπὲρ ἐμοῦ.

Verse: I have been crucified with Christ that I live no longer, 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.

1. Paul makes three confessions (“I” is representative of all Christians Two places “I” is emphasized) [Paul was writing to a group of Christ-followers who were beginning to supplement legalism with gracious salvation]

(a) I have been crucified with Christ

(a1) Paul uses this figure of speech to express his conversion experience

(a2) The perfect tense of συνεσταύρωμαι emphasizes that participation in the crucified Christ has become the believer’s settled way of life (it is an extensive perfect)

(a3) Crucified/death—an end to the life lived this far—legalism, self-righteousness, superstition, etc...

(b) I no longer live, but Christ lives in me

(b1) How could Paul say, “I no longer live” when he is still alive?

(b2) He meant that “self” is dethroned (my agenda, my goal, etc.,) (what controlled him earlier is no longer the controlling force)

(b3) The expression “Christ lives in me” conveys the idea that Christ sets his [Paul’s] agenda, goal, etc.

(b4) He meant that he does not have a separate existence, but his existence is merged in Christ’s

(b5) A radical transformation within the believer

(c) The life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me

(c1) Paul says that while he was still in flesh, his life in Christ has already begun

(c2) E. P. Sanders calls it “participationist eschatology”

(c3) “Faith in Jesus” has become the new influencing and guiding force of his present life

2. The whole Christian life is a response to the love exhibited in the death of the Son of God for men [how will it look when Christ starts living in you in the place of “I”?]

(a) He deemphasized self-promoting heritage

(b) He did not place significance on things that would promote his self

(c) He saw himself as new

(d) There was a clear distinction between the past and present life

(e) His former life was based on his achievements

(f) His present life was based on the achievement of Jesus Christ

3. Take Away

Break from the past and let Jesus Christ set the agenda for your life