

# Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

*Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ*

October 8, 2017

## **CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST**

I am crucified with Christ! What a bold statement made by the apostle Paul! Did he not know that multitudes of Christians over the next two thousand years would fail in their efforts to obtain to such a place? Some would go to unbelievably extreme measures such as self-flagellation or literal self-crucifixion. Others would shut themselves up in monasteries or give themselves to a life of extreme poverty which they believed would bring them identification with Christ. Even today there are many who act as though they believe that God is only pleased if they are undergoing great suffering. Yet no one through such things as these, ever obtained the glorious liberty of being crucified with Christ.

Crucifixion with Christ is the great “key” to Christian liberty. Through Christ’s work on the cross we are dead to sin Romans 6:11, dead to the world Galatians 6:14, and dead to the Law. Romans 7:4. In being dead to sin, sin has no hold or presence in the children of God. In being dead to the world, the world has no appeal or claim to those who live in Christ. In being dead to the Law, we do not serve God by religious ordinance or ritual.

Perhaps the clearest explanation in the scripture of the work of the cross is this following passage: *“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.*” Romans 6:6. Let us consider the power of this statement.

1. **“Knowing this...”** This is not an assumption. It is a foundational truth of the gospel that every child of God must KNOW!.
2. **“...our old man...”** The Adamic man. The person you once were. The sinner.
3. **“...is crucified...”** Our old man is not being crucified. He (She) IS crucified!
4. **“...with him (Christ)...”** The death of our *“old man”* was accomplished on the cross. It is not something we accomplish after coming to Christ. It happened **“WITH”** (in union with) Christ.
5. **“...that the body of sin...”** This speaks of not just a part or portion, but the whole. Not a hand or foot, but the entire body of SIN...” We are not saved a piece at a time.
6. **“...might be destroyed...”** The purpose of our crucifixion with Christ is that the entire *“body of sin might be destroyed!”* “Destroyed” comes from the same Greek word the apostles used when they spoke of Christ destroying death I Corinthians 15:26 and Satan. Hebrews 2:14. It is a complete victory over and destruction of sin’s presence and power in the believer.
7. **“...that henceforth...”** From this point forward! No Longer! Everything has changed!
8. **“...we should not serve sin.”** The great purpose and result of our crucifixion with Christ is that we would be delivered from sin. For those crucified with Christ, the entire

*“body of sin”* is destroyed and they serve it no longer. They are made free!

Crucifixion with Christ is a finished work for the children of God. We are not dying to sin. We are *“dead to sin.”* The apostles always speak of our crucifixion as a present condition based upon Christ’s finished work. If it is not already accomplished, it is not WITH CHRIST.

I grew up hearing and believing that a Christian had to die every day to self, flesh, and sin because the apostle Paul said *“I die daily.”* When I finally read the passage for myself, I saw that it had nothing to do with such things. Paul was defending the resurrection of the dead and making the point that he would be a fool to give himself to suffer the things he endured if there was no resurrection of the dead. Speaking of the great persecutions he faced everywhere he went, he wrote the following words:

*“And why stand we in jeopardy every hour? I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, **I die daily.** If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we die.”* I Corinthians 15:30-32.

Although a child of God needs to be *“renewed day by day”* in the Holy Ghost II Corinthians 4:16 Titus 3:5, the scripture is clear that we died unto sin once. Paul says, *“For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* Romans 6:10-11. *“Likewise,”* just as it was with Christ it is with the believer. We died unto sin once, but ever live unto God.

I am crucified with Christ. It is accomplished. It is finished! I did not do it. In fact no one can do it. You can only believe it and in believing receive the glorious freedom from the Law, sin, and the world that it brings to the children of God.