

Simply Christ
Gospel Newsletter
Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

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Must I Die Daily?

For many years I believed the Christian walk was one of “dying daily” to sin and the flesh. I was sure this was true because the Apostle Paul said, “*I die daily.*” If he had to die daily to sin and the flesh, certainly we have to also. Then I did something out of place for a modern churchgoer. I actually looked up Paul’s words in the Bible so I could read them for myself. What I discovered shocked me.

As Paul was refuting those who denied the resurrection, he asked, “*Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?*” | Corinthians 15:12. Understanding that the entire gospel message hinged on the resurrection of Christ from the dead, Paul said, “*But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.*” | Corinthians 15:14-15.

Paul then points out the foolishness of putting his life at risk to preach the gospel if there is no resurrection. He asks, “*And why stand we in jeopardy every hour?*” | Corinthians 15:30. Perhaps no one ever suffered more for the gospel’s sake than the Apostle Paul. Consider the account he gives of the things he faced to preach the gospel.

“Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes

above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.” 11
Corinthians 11:23-27.

Notice Paul said he was “*in deaths often.*” This is what he was referring to when he said, “*I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.*” 1 Corinthians 15:31. Day after day he put his life in jeopardy to preach the gospel of Christ. How many times must he have not known if he would survive the beating, stoning, shipwreck, betrayal, etc. that he was currently facing? When I realized what Paul was expressing with the words “*I die daily,*” I knew it would be an arrogant and absurd boast for me to take up these words and apply them to myself.

Paul’s true gospel profession for himself, and for everyone who knows the reality of Christ, was actually the opposite of “*I die daily.*” As he presented gospel realities that every believer needs to know, he said, “*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. This is the power of the cross of Christ. The cross crucified the person we once were (*our old man*) and destroyed the entirety (*body*) of sin so that from the hour we

came to Christ (*henceforth*), we would never again serve sin!

Paul did not present our “crucifixion” as a work in process, or as something to be repeated over and over in our walk. He reminds us that *“Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.”* Romans 6:9-10. Christ died once unto sin for us and never has to die again. He now forever lives unto God. It is at this point Paul gives us the great gospel assurance that we must stand upon. He says *“Likewise”* (just like Jesus died unto sin once, but now lives unto God) we must *“reckon”* (account, acknowledge the truth) that we are *“dead indeed (in fact) unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* Romans 6:11. This is not confessing something to be true that is not. It is recognizing the power of what Christ actually did for us (and in us) upon the cross. This simple recognition and acknowledgement of the truth is vital to our rest, victory, and freedom in Christ!

The modern church has an irreconcilable conflict with Paul’s gospel profession. There is almost universal agreement that “we are all sinners and (many add) we sin every day.” This “ungospel” profession cannot be reconciled with the gospel the Apostle Paul preached. **YOU CANNOT COUNT YOURSELF “TO BE DEAD IN FACT UNTO SIN” AND CLAIM TO BE A SINNER ALSO.** That would be what some people refer to as “speaking out of both sides of your mouth.”

If you stood in most churches and said “No! We are not all sinners! The redeemed are dead to sin and alive unto God,” you would be branded a

deceived, arrogant, heretic or fool.” Yet until the church begins to hear such voices, the slide into the uncleanness and darkness that permeates the church world will continue. When *“truth is fallen in the streets”* ^{Isaiah 59:14}, it lays there until someone picks it up and begins to declare it.

A child of God is in fact *“dead unto sin, but alive unto God.”* Although we do not *“die daily,”* we do need daily renewal in the Spirit of God. Paul said, *“...the inner man is renewed day by day.”* ^{II Corinthians 4:16}. We eat and drink of Christ daily through his Spirit and his word, and he is the *“bread of life”* and the *“living water”* that sustains us as we walk through this present world.