

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

December 3, 2020

The Whole Thing is Destroyed

There is a verse in the Bible which is so complete in describing the reason Christ died upon the cross that it has the power to revolutionize the experience of everyone who believes it. Romans 1:16. The understanding of this verse is so vital to us that I believe it necessary for us to consider it word by word.

“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.

“Knowing this...” The apostle considered the message of this verse critical for every believer to know. In fact, he deals with it as common knowledge to those he had brought the gospel to. This is something you must know!

“...our old man...” The *“old man”* is the person you were before you were redeemed. Remember this: “Your past is not your past as long as it is still your present condition.” Paul said if anyone is in Christ, *“...old things (old man, old nature) are passed away.”* II Corinthians 5:17.

“...is crucified with him (Christ)...” In the Greek language, the words *“crucified with”* mean *“to impale G4716 in union with. G4862”* This does not speak of us imitating Christ’s crucifixion or us at a later date seeking to suffer as he suffered. It means when Christ died we died with him; same

time; same cross; same death! In these few words, the heart and power of the gospel are discovered. It reveals why *“the Word was made flesh”* to die upon the cross. It was not about penalty, punishment, or payment of some kind of debt. Jesus Christ died on the cross in order that we could also die there in union with him. This is the means by which God *“delivered us from the power of darkness.”* Colossians 1:13.

Without this death with Christ, we would still be eternally enslaved ...and lost!

“...that the body of sin...” The Greek word translated *“body”* speaks of *“the sound whole.”* A hand is not the body; neither is a foot, an eye, or the tongue. Each of these are merely members of the body. You can lose a foot, and the body still live, but if the body dies, all the members die with it. The *“body of sin”* does not speak of individual sins. It speaks of the whole of sin. One person’s sin may manifest as fornication while another person’s sin may manifest as greed, but the cross deals with them all as a whole. In fact, it deals with the source of sin. If each sin were dealt with individually, salvation would be a lifetime process, but that is not God’s method of salvation. God chose to deal with the entire *“body of sin”* upon the cross.

“...might be destroyed...” The word *“might”* should not be interpreted as a possibility word. In fact, there is no word for *“might”* found in the Greek text for this passage. It was added to help the flow of this sentence. *“Destroyed”* is the key word in this phrase. The reason *“our old man is crucified with Christ”* is so that the whole *“body of sin”* would be *“destroyed!”* Some point out that the Greek word used for destroyed means

“to be (render) entirely idle,” which is true. They wrongfully attempt to show that salvation only makes sin *“idle,”* but that it will reengage on a regular basis and we will continue to sin. But the Apostle Paul uses this same Greek word for *“destroyed,”* when he wrote, *“The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.”* I Corinthians 15:26. When *“death”* is destroyed, it is not coming back. Imagine a Roman war machine, such as a catapult, which has been broken and cast to the ground in pieces. It can no longer cast boulders against the enemy’s wall because it has been destroyed. It has been rendered idle. This is what Paul says our crucifixion with Christ does to the whole *“body of sin.”* It has been broken, cast to the ground, and put to death. It cannot wage war in you!

“...that henceforth...” This means *“no further!”* It describes a point in time from which sin can no longer function in you because it has been destroyed through crucifixion with Christ. This is not a work in process. It was finished on the cross and received when we believe the truth and recognize that we are in fact *“crucified with Christ.”*

“...we should not serve sin.” Again, there is no Greek word for *“should”* in this passage. This is not describing how things *“should be”* in Christ. It is describing how things ARE! Those who are in Christ do not serve sin. The entire *“body of sin”* has been destroyed, and they are made free.

“For he that is dead (with Christ) is freed from sin.” Romans 6:7