

**A Study in Galatians
Crucified With Christ
Galatians 2: 19-21**

Verses 15 and 16 sum up the truth.

Verses 17 and 18 reveal the absurdity of the false teachers.

Verse 19-21 tells us the application of the truth.

Paul makes three incredible statements.

1. I am _____.

2. Because I _____.

3. I am now _____.

So I am...

- Free from the _____.
- Free from _____.
- Free from _____.

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Message Application

The movie, *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, came out in 1975. I was in high school at the time and thought that the irreverent comedy was great (please don't take this endorsement from a 15 year old critic).

There was one scene that was crazy! It was depicting the awful time in the Dark Ages of the Black Plague. People are bringing out the dead to be collected for burning. A conversation begins between a family member and his supposedly dead relative. The relative insist that he is not dead but only half dead. The fact that he is speaking would tell the viewer that he is completely alive. The argument goes back and forth as to whether the relative is dead, alive, or half-dead. I guess you have to have a twisted sense of humor to appreciate the scene.

When it comes to being a Christ-follower the question of being alive in Christ and dead to sin should be a no brainer. If you are a believer in Christ you are dead to the old you and alive with Jesus' resurrection power. There aren't any "half-dead" Christians. To think so is just as crazy as the Monty Python scene.

We only get a sense that we are "half-dead" when we refuse to die to ourselves. We humans have a great capacity to be our own gods. We know our old life is taking us nowhere but to defeat; yet we cling to the old corpse! Old habits, old fears, old sins. It doesn't need to be this way. It shouldn't be this way!

Friends, are you alive in Christ Jesus? When you believed God gave you his righteousness. God justified you. When the Heavenly Father looks at you he sees you through the sacrifice of his son on the cross. God recognizes that your old life is dead and you are resurrected to a new life in Christ. If God sees you as a new creation, he is going to give you power to live like a new creation. The only caveat is that you recognize your new life and grow to maturity (looking more like Jesus every day).

This week meditate on your freedom in Christ. You are free from sin and the Law and the old patterns of living. Your fears and failures are dead in the Father's eye. All you have to do is trust and quit living as a dead person.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 12: 1-3

20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, 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. Galatians 2:20

Peace & Grace,
Wm. Lyons