

Sunday, February 5, 2023—Galatians 2:20 Dead Yet Alive

Galatians 2:20

- **I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.**
- **I am crucified with Christ**—note the past tense on the verb “crucified,” which corresponds to the perfect tense, passive voice, and indicative mood in Greek. The perfect tense denotes “an action which is viewed as having been completed in the past, once and for all, not need to be repeated.” The passive voice “represents the subject as being the recipient of the action.” Meanwhile the indicative mood conveys a “simple statement of fact.” (BlueLetterBible Parsing Information)
- Taken together Paul is saying that at a point in time in the past he was the passive recipient of complete action that was done to Paul. Namely, Paul was “crucified with Christ.”
- Romans 6:3-6— if Paul was crucified with Christ, it would only make sense that Paul was dead. In what sense was Paul dead? Our old man was crucified and destroyed by Christ when He died on the cross on our behalf.
- Colossians 2:11-14—when I lost sinner trusts the finished work of Christ as spiritual operation is performed on them by God the Holy Spirits whereby the persons soul and spirit i.e., inner man is cut away/circumcised from “the body of the sins of the flesh.”
- **nevertheless I live**—despite being dead as a pass accomplished fact Paul is alive in the present. The verb “live” is in the present tense and the active voice. In the present Paul actively possess life, despite being dead. Thus, the word “nevertheless” or “notwithstanding” that is “in opposition to anything.” Put another way, notwithstanding the fact of Paul’s past crucifixion i.e., death Paul presently possessed life. Paul tells us that while he was dead, he was still alive.
- **yet not I**—the present life Paul possesses really isn’t his. If its not really Paul that is doing the living than who is it?
- **but Christ liveth in me**—note the contrast. It is Christ the “liveth” in Paul. The verb “liveth” in the present tense and the active voice. Jesus Christ was actively living his life in and through Paul.
- Paul then goes on to say that the reason he is still living is because Christ is living within him. In other words, that life that Paul was experiencing is because Christ was living within him.
- Galatians 1:13-14—this was the purpose unto which God saved Paul, that is to “reveal his Son in me.”

- II Corinthians 5:17—when Paul got saved, he became a new man born of the Spirit of God. But this new man that Paul became was really Jesus Christ Himself living His life in and through Paul.
- II Corinthians 4:7-13—Christ is manifests himself today through the lives of the members of the body of Christ. We are just like Paul, dead and alive at the same times.
- II Corinthians 5:20—“we are ambassadors for Christ”
- **and the life, which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**
- This time, the phrase “*in the flesh*” has no reference to the activity of the body but has to do with the fact that the believer’s new heavenly life has been placed into an earthen vessel i.e., an earth suit and must be lived out inside the skin and bone restrictions of a corpse.
- This creates an interesting situation for the believer:
 - Galatians 2:20—the good that a believer does is not his own.
 - Romans 7:22—yet good is what real believers want to do.
 - Romans 7:1-6—the good fruit comes from somewhere in the believer that is part of the new man which rose from the dead.
 - Ephesians 2:10—any good that comes from us is the result of the life of Christ in us.
- Galatians 2:20—note that it is based upon the “faith of the Son of Gd” that is how Paul is able to live the Christian life.