

“IT IS NO LONGER I WHO LIVE”

INTRODUCTION

A. Galatians 2:20

This text, which we intend to study soon in our Sunday class, is one of those that just demands commitment to memory as it is, literally, a crucial verse, defining everything about a Christian.

B. Galatians 6:14

This theme demands that I empty myself of all pride, except that which pertains to Jesus, and, really, empty myself altogether.

I. “I HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST”

A. Colossians 2:12

This crucifixion of the self and with Christ occurs in baptism. As much as those in denominations prefer to distance baptism from salvation, Scripture keeps pulling us toward that necessary conclusion.

B. Romans 6:3-6

Dying and be buried with Christ in baptism is how we are “*united together*.” It just doesn’t happen without this. The symbolism is clear.

II. “IT IS NO LONGER I WHO LIVE”

A. Galatians 5:16-25

If we live for ourselves, then we do whatever we please, which is living for the flesh, but we must crucify those desires.

B. Romans 8:13

By not living for ourselves, we will be regarded by worldly people as not living at all, so they shortsightedly urge us to “Live it up!” However, that kind of living isn’t really living at all because it ends in an avoidable death. If we really want to live, we need to put our bodily deeds to death.

C. **Colossians 3:5-10**

Putting off the old man and putting on the new means a total change of identity!

III. **“CHRIST LIVES IN ME”**

A. **Colossians 3:3**

In a world full of people struggling to figure out who they are, building identities around either pointless stuff, or, worse, wicked stuff, it is a relief to be able to lose ourselves in the One who loved us so much He died for us.

B. **Colossians 2:9-10**

We must begin to perceive ourselves as complete only in Him! It's not our education or career, neither our athletic prowess, nor where we are from, and not even our families! It's Jesus that makes us whole.

C. **Romans 14:8**

We need to regard our entire existence, including life and death, as His, not ours.

D. **2nd Corinthians 5:15**

Considering the price He paid, the highest price there is, a price He certainly did not owe, how can we be so selfish as to think of living for anything but Him?

IV. **“I LIVE BY FAITH”**

A. **2nd Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 11:1**

Living by faith means replacing our sight. We no longer let this world, the here and now, be our primary focus.

B. **1st Peter 1:6-9**

Rather, we are concentrated on Jesus, whom we cannot see yet love, because our goal is eternal salvation.