

July 11, 2010
Randall L. Adkisson, Ph.D.

Monday

Gal. 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ..."

The words are stark and painful, yet they have lost their punch in our soft Christian society. We see crucifixion as a symbol, but Paul wrote of it as a reality. No polite and sentimental language. No far off history. Peter would be crucified. Steven stoned. Paul murdered at Caesar's hand. Pastors would be killed. Deacons were thrown into arenas with beasts. Mothers were taken to death with their children ripped from their arms. Families were burned at the stake. It is still happening today to your brothers and sisters in other lands. Paul was willing to die for Jesus. Are you willing to live for Him? Seriously, are you?

Tuesday

Gal. 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Just as Jesus willingly walked to the cross, so the believer must willingly take the crucifixion upon him/herself. God will not force you to walk such a walk, but God will bless you when you choose to take up the cross. What is the crucified life? It is to daily put aside your natural tendencies of self while intentionally taking on the character of Christ. It is putting aside your way while intentionally adopting God's word as your standard. It is dying daily to selfishness, rights, and sin and walking under the Lordship of Jesus. It is the dance of dead men who live by faith, walk by faith, and serve by faith.

Wednesday

Col. 3:3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Dead men have no need to fear death! Only the living know the anxiety of fear. We fear the death of income and of respect. We worry about what people think and fear embarrassment in our witness. Our feet are glued to the floor by our worry and fear. We cannot dance the dance of life or hear the music of the heavenly song. But those who have died with Christ do not worry. Their concerns are giving over completely to His hands. Fear is gone. Worry is nonexistent. God is in control. Only those who have died with Christ enjoy the dance of abundant life.

Thursday

Matt. 16:25 "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

The movie plays. The plot thickens. A deadly poison has been placed in the hero's drink. With only forty-eight hours to live, he must find his killer, declare his love for the heroin, and say his goodbyes. Of course he discovers that he never really danced, tasted life, or understood love until he was a walking dead man. You can learn a lot from the movie. The theme flows from the lips of the Lord. Only when you lose your life to the Savior's call, only then will you have a life worth saving. Do you want to live? Die to self and live for Jesus today.

Friday

Rom. 6:11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The promise of freedom is made only to dead men. The dance of life is given only to those who have died. Sin, its power and shame, is by far the worst of all captors. Many walk through life unable to shake its power and grip. Fear of judgment, embarrassment, and shame hold more tightly than a thousand hardened steel bars. But when you choose to die daily with Jesus, He gives you the power to overcome the shackles of sin. He does not merely give you the grace of forgiveness but also the power to overcome. Consider yourself dead to sin and begin to walk in the freedom of Jesus. Say no to sin and yes to righteous behavior.