

Principles of Spiritual Growth – 04/12/20

The Cross

TEXT- 1 Cor 1:17,18 *For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*

INTRO - Here is a letter written to a local advice column along with the response:

Dear Eutyclus:

Our preacher said, on Easter, that Jesus just swooned on the cross and that the disciples nursed Him back to health.

What do you think? Sincerely, Bewildered

Dear Bewildered:

Beat your preacher with a cat-of-nine-tails with 39 heavy strokes, nail him to a cross; hang him in the sun for 6 hours; run a spear through his heart; embalm him; put him in an airless tomb for 36 hours and see what happens.

Sincerely, Eutyclus

One problem with the churches is that too many people want to have Easter without Calvary. Spiritual hunger and need are primary requirements for light and understanding, but the Holy Spirit does not release these treasures of the Word quickly or easily. **Psa 42:7** *Deep calleth unto deep . . . There is much time digging, praying, meditation and yearning involved.*

Understanding and appropriating the facts of the cross is one of the most difficult aspects for every believer.

It is what Jesus did on the cross that that becomes the main force in the life of a new believer. This is the starting point for the victorious Christian life. We must identify ourselves with His crucifixion and resurrection. There are two steps to the crucified life.

1. Appropriating our faith in the finished work of Christ. (Justification)

2. Identifying (reckoning) our life as crucified with Christ.

Rom 6:6-7 *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. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

Dying with Christ is a liberating truth that gives us victory over sin.

Rom 5:12 *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that **all have sinned**:(In Adam)*

All men died in Adam our representative

Jesus was our representative on the cross – We died with Him.

Gal 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.*

Rom 6:6-14 *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. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin. 8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: 9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. 10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. 11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. 13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*

2 Co 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

We are justified by faith – Gal. 3:24

We walk by faith - 2 Cor. 5:7

Col 2:6 *As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:*

Calvary is as much the foundation for sanctification as it is for justification. Both spring from the same work and are two aspects of the same salvation.

Confession is a means provided to restore our relationship with God but sanctification deems confession unnecessary.

The enemy is the old man, the flesh, self, I the old Adam, the old nature and it is a usurper.

Dying to self means you want God to have control of your life more than you want to keep control of it yourself.

There was a day when I died, utterly died — died to George Müller, his opinions, preferences, tastes, and will; died to the world, its approval or censure; died to the approval or blame even of my brethren and friends — and since then I have only to show myself approved to God.

George Muller (1805-1898)

George Muller had come to the point that being in the Will of God was the only thing that mattered. When he could do that day after day, he realized that he had become “dead to self.” It was just the natural outcome of a life that walked in sync with God.

“He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” –Jim Elliot-

The first step is to learn to hear the Holy Spirit when He speaks and just be obedient to what He says. He will never lead you astray, and always desires the very best for your life. If you wake up each day and your main desire is to allow the Holy Spirit to work in the way God desires, you will be changed from the inside out.

Go to a corpse and saying everything bad you can about them – What is their response?

Go to a corpse and say everything good you can about them. What is their response?

John 12:24 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.*

CONCL- When did you die?

Gal 6:14 *But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.*