

PAUL WAS CRUCIFIED

Sunday morning we looked at three of the “I Am’s” of the apostle Paul. “I am a debtor...” “I am ready...” “I am not ashamed...” Those three are found in Romans 1:14-16. I want to look at another of the “I am’s” of Paul, which is found in 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.”* A similar statement is made in Galatians 5:24 which refers to the Christian in general. *“And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”* What is Paul saying? Paul was no longer going to live for self, he was going to live for Christ. Romans 6:6 indicates that we put to death the old man when we are baptized into Christ. We arise to walk in newness of life, a life of service to Christ. Christ living within us comes about when we become children of God by faith. Galatians 3:26,27 brings this point out. He went on to say that the life that he was now living was a life of faith in the Son of God. He was still in the flesh, but the desires of the flesh did not determine his life. He was walking by faith. Paul had come to the realization that Christ loved him enough to die for him. We cannot know a greater love than that of someone who is willing to lay down their life for us (John 15:13).
—L. Cole

THE RACE WE RUN

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:1,2). Before the Grecian games, there was much training involved. Weights were often used during practice. But, during the games those weights were removed. This would help the runner have greater speed in order to win the race. If the weights were left on, it would obviously hinder the runner. Likely they would not be able to win.

Some evidently think they can enter the Christian race and carry weights with them. Weights are often weaknesses that develop into the practice of sin. These

weights hinder one from being what they could be in the Lord's service. Moses chose to cast his lot with the Lord's people, than enjoy "pleasures of sin" which are but for a season (see *Hebrews 11:24,25*). To avoid these weights in life, one must look unto Jesus (by means of His Word). He is the perfect example to follow (*Hebrews 5:9; 1 Peter 2:21-22*). He is the author (leader) and finisher, i.e. He completed the scheme of redemption for man.

One must first enter the race in order to run. Obedience to the Gospel, through faith, repentance, confession of Christ, and baptism, brings about this entrance. Paul entered this race (*Acts 22:1-16*), and continued to look to Jesus the rest of his life. His final letter reveals the end result of his obedience, patience, and steadfastness (see *2 Timothy 4:6-8*). He believed the prize at the end of the way was worth running hard for the Lord's cause (*Philippians 3:14*). How are we doing in our race of life? We must start right, continue right, or it may be some need to start over.

Wayne Lankford, Words from Wayne, The East Main Messenger, 12/17/17

EXPERIENCE

I learn as the years roll onward
and leave the past behind,
That much I have counted sorrow
but proves that the world is kind;

That many a flower I longed for
had a hidden thorn of pain,
And many a rugged by-path
led to fields of ripened grain.

The clouds that cover the sunshine,
they cannot banish the sun,
And the earth shines out the brighter
when the weary rain is done.

We stand in the deepest sorrow
to see the clearest light,
And often from wrong's own darkness
comes the very strength of right.

So, the heart—from the hardest trial
gains the purest joy of all,
And from the lips that have tasted sadness,
the sweetest songs will fall.

For as peace comes after suffering,
and love is reward of pain,
So after the earth comes heaven,
and out of our lost the gain.

Maurie G. Clay Huntingdon Church of Christ, 8/26/2001

**THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE
WORSHIP—SUNDAY AM
DEC 24, 2017**

Co-Coordinator George Clay
Announcements Dallas Eddie

Scriptures Reading.. John 3:16,17 . . .Austin Clay
Song Leader Steve Anderson
Opening Prayer. Jacky Carver, Sr.

Lord's Supper-Preside: Robert Hackett
Serve:, Mitchell Brooks, Ethan Leonard
Justin Draper, Roger Draper,
Closing Prayer Glen Reece

Greeter— Dianna Dillehay & Susanne
Greeter— Glen & Patsy Reece
Greeters: Please be here to greet 20 minutes before services.

Count Offering. Dallas Eddie
. Kaleb Bush
AM Sermon—Jesus Love Me This I Know.
PM Sermon— Fourth Sunday Singing

WORSHIP---SUNDAY---6:00 PM

Announcements Dallas Eddie
Song Leader. Steve Anderson
Scripture Reading...Psa. 100:1-3. . . . Austin Clay

Opening Prayer Mitchell Brooks
Lord's Supper Jacky Carver, Sr.
. Gavin Spurlin
Closing Prayer Roger Draper

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY---7:00 PM

Announcement..... Dallas Eddie
Song Leader George Clay
First Prayer.....Jacky Carver, Sr.
Opening Prayer Glen Reece
Closing Prayer Justin Draper

Prepare Communion for DEC

Vicki R. & Dianna D.

MONTROSE BULLETIN BOARD

NURSING HOME:

Opal Agee-Kindred
Pearl Anderson—Knollwood Manor,
Kasel Dillehay—Overton Co. Nursing Home
Carolyn Lankford—Mabry Health Care

THOSE ON THE SICK LIST;

W. A. Gibbs, Gladys Bowling,
Jimmie Faye Cole, Sawyer Cole,
Ramelle Cole, Carolyn Clay
Jere Andrews,

OUR RECORD OF LOVE FOR CHRIST

12/17/17

Wednesday..... 39
Worship Sunday AM 79
Bible Study Sunday AM 69
Daily Bible Readers 33
Worship Sunday PM 44

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Dec. 31st. Fifth Sunday and Young Men conduct services

Pantry Item: Jelly

Congratulations to Kimmie Bush for graduating from TTU with a Bachelor’s Degree and Zac Cole with EDS Degree.

READING SCHEDULE FOR DEC

01 Gal. 6; Eph. 1,2	11 Titus 1-3; Phil. 1	21 I John. 4-5; II John 1
02 Eph. 3-6	12 Heb. 1-3	22 III Jn. 1; Jude 1
03 Phil. 1-4	13 Heb. 4-6	23 Rev. 1-3
04 Col. 1-4	14 Heb. 7-9	24 Rev. 4-6
05 I Thess. 1-2	15 Heb. 10-13	25 Rev. 7-9
06 I Thess. 3-5	16 Jam. 1-5	26 Rev. 10-12
07 II Thess. 1-3	17 I Pet 1-2	27 Rev. 13-15
08 I Tim. 1-3	18 I Pet. 3-5	28 Rev. 16-18
09 I Tim. 4-6	19 II Pet. 1-3	29 Rev. 19-21
10 II Tim. 1-4	20 I John1-3	30 Rev. 22
		31 Pray