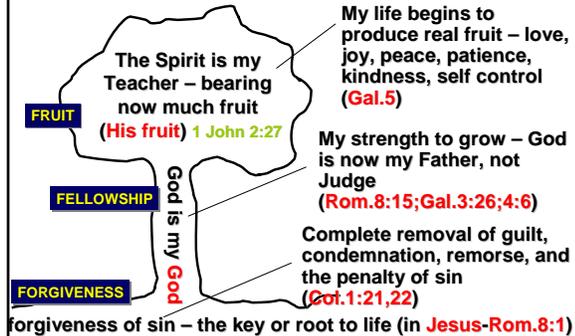


The New Covenant Concealed



Am I Crucified?

- When did the Old Covenant end and the New Covenant begin?
 - Luke 22:20: At the Last Super
- Who may enter into this New Covenantal relationship with God through Jesus?
 - John 10:10; 10:27-30: His sheep!
- How do we become one of His sheep?
 - Luke 9:22,23; 14:27: by denying myself and taking up "my cross" and following Him.
- What is a cross?



Am I Crucified?



"The cross is the symbol of death. It stands for the abrupt, violent end of the human being. The man in Roman times who took up his cross and started down the road had already said goodbye to his friends. He was not coming back. He was not going out to have his life redirected. He was going out to have it ended. The cross made no compromise, modified nothing, spared nothing. It slew all of the man completely and for good. It did not try to keep on good terms with its victim. It struck swift and hard and when it had finished its work the man was no more... In coming to Christ we do not bring our life up on to a higher plane. We leave it at a cross."

(A.W. Tozer)

Am I Crucified?

- When did the Old Covenant end and the New Covenant begin?
 - Luke 22:20: At the Last Super
- Who may enter into this New Covenantal relationship with God through Jesus?
 - John 10:27-30: His sheep!
- How do we become one of His sheep?
 - Luke 9:23; 14:27: by denying to myself and taking up "my cross" and following Him
- What is a cross?
 - An instrument of death an execution device!



Am I Crucified?

- Why do I have to die to live in the New Covenant?
 - Remember, nothing good (from God's perspective) can come from me (lesson of the OC), that is, my natural self (the flesh).
 - Galatians 5:17 - my flesh is at war with Him!



Am I Crucified?



"The Christian life is different: harder, and easier. Christ says, 'Give me all. I don't want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work. I want you. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it. No half-measures are any good. I don't want to cut off a branch here and a branch there, I want to have the whole tree down. Hand over the whole natural self, all the desires, which you think innocent as well as the ones you think wicked - the whole outfit. I will give you a new self instead. In fact, I will give you Myself; my own will shall become yours.'"

(C.S. Lewis)

Am I Crucified?

• Why do I have to die to live in the New Covenant?

- Remember, nothing good (from God's perspective) can come from me (lesson of the OC), that is, my natural self (the flesh).
– **Galatians 5:17** – *my flesh is at war with Him!*



• So what is "the flesh"?

- "my animal nature"... the animal nature with avaricious cravings to do my own thing.
- The flesh, denotes mere human nature, the earthly nature of man apart from divine influence, and therefore prone to sin and opposed to God."
(Strong, J. (1996). The exhaustive concordance of the Bible)

Am I Crucified?

What is the flesh?



"...[Satan] has interposed himself between God and humanity and takes the pure life (or love) of God and twists and distorts it so that it is no longer outward directed, as it came from God, but it becomes inward directed; that is, no longer other-loving, but it becomes self-loving ... That life is called 'the flesh.' This, then, is the primary characteristic of the flesh: it is self-serving. It is God's life, misused. It can have all the outward appearance of the life of God – loving, working, forgiving, creating, serving – but with an inward motive that is aimed always and solely at the advancement of self. It thus becomes the rival of God – another god!"

(Stedman, Authentic Christianity, page 67)

Am I Crucified?

• The "flesh" then is my natural desire to be the lord and god of my own life.

- **Galatians 5:24** – we must crucify "the flesh"
- **Romans 8:5-8** – those who are "in the flesh"



• Paul says there are only two things worth knowing: **Jesus and Him crucified!**

- **1 Corinthians 2:1-2**

• Notice how Paul summarizes his life in the New Covenant:

- **Galatians 2:19-21**
 1. he died to the Law (the Old Covenant)!
 2. Through this death (of the flesh), he now lives – to God.
 3. Christ Jesus, literally, lives in him!
 4. The life which Paul lives in the body, he lives by complete faith in Jesus

Am I Crucified?

"The Law is not a way of life, Peter; it is a way of death. The Law kills us that the Gospel might raise us up again. A person "in Christ" is not someone who is trying to obey an outward law. A person "in Christ" is one who has the living Christ within. By faith, I am united to Christ forever. When He died, I died; when He arose, I arose with Him. He lives out His life through me as I walk by faith—this is the life "in Christ"! It is not a set of rules and regulations from a renewal of the Old Covenant. To go back to the Law is to invalidate the grace of God! If the Law is God's way of salvation, then Christ died in vain!"

Am I Crucified?

• Life "in Christ" comes through my voluntary death!

- Jesus didn't come to make bad people good – He came to give dead people His Life!
– **John 10:10**



• The **beginning** of the Gospel (entering into the New Covenant with Jesus) is the cross – the death of me as my own god

• I can only live one life – mine or Jesus' – there's only room enough in my heart for one: me or Him!

- **John 12:24-26**

• Who's on the throne in your life?

• Have you personally died and entered into the New Covenant Jesus is offering?