

Lent Meditation 9 18th March 2021



Gal.2,20

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Do we wish we could say this too – that we *have been crucified with Christ*? Are these words that we know we ought to be able to say, and want to, but feel we can't because they sound untrue to us? Do they speak to us as of a victory in a battle in which for us defeat seems the only reality? Do we think, 'If only it were true for me'?

If we do, it cannot be for any other reason than that we see in us something we want to be made an end of, namely the rule and lordship of our 'self', and that we desire the rise and beginning of a different 'me', one that *might live for God* (v.19).

What the cross of Jesus Christ is designed to make an end of, is me, my identity as one who does not live for God but for self, is that I who live for myself can say – with some hope and relish! - *I no longer live*.

Is not the longing to live for God, if at all present, married to a profound sadness over the continued way in which I live for myself and show by my pursuits and avoidances that governance over my life has not gone from me to God? Such sadness needs to be taken in faith to *the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me*. For he died so that with him through faith I may die, that is, no longer live, and he may live in me. Only when I have been crucified with Christ can I say *I no longer live*. There is so much 'me' that no longer ought to rule, and so much of Christ's Lordship that I need to rule in its place instead! What brings self-rule to an end and Christ-rule in its place is always and only grace, through the forgiveness of sins and Christ's life for us.

So the life that we are now living *in the body* is to be lived by faith in Jesus Christ (trusting him), so that what he has done be done in me, and who he is he be in me.