

WHEN "I" AM NO LONGER "I"

Galatians 2:18-21

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Paul refers to a time in his life when he was "I," when he was Saul of Tarsus, before he was crucified with Christ.
- B. He would become a transgressor if he went back to the Old Law
- C. Let's learn some lessons from Paul

DISCUSSION:

I. WHEN PAUL WAS SAUL OF TARSUS:

- A. Very religious & conscientious Acts 22:3; 23:1
- B. He was highly learned Gal 1:14
 1. Yet grossly ignorant of the truth of the gospel
 2. He thought that he ought to do many things contrary to the name of Christ Acts 26:9
- C. Violently prejudiced. Believing gospel to be heresy, he did everything in his power to stamp it out
 1. He made havoc of the church Acts 8:3
 2. After persecuting church in Jerusalem, he then went to Damascus Acts 9:1,2
- D. He realized he was tragically wrong.
 1. He asked, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"
 2. The Lord's reply was go into Damascus Acts 9:6
 3. After fasted and prayed 3 days Ananias answered Acts 22:16

II. SAUL" CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST"

- A. Christ our Lord was crucified. Matt 28:5
- B. Paul says that he was crucified with Christ
 1. Paul didn't literally die on cross with Christ, but in some way, he was crucified with Christ,
 2. He tells us how Rom 6:3,4
- C. Baptized into death of Christ - crucified with Christ.
 1. Old persecuting "I" died now new creature 2Cor 5:17
 2. Rose to walk in newness of life." Rom 6:4

III. OBSERVE PAUL WHEN NO LONGER "I" - BUT WHEN CHRIST LIVED IN HIM

- A. Christ worshipped according to the Law
 1. It was Jesus' custom to go into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and worship Lk 4:16
 2. Paul's custom to meet on first day Acts 20:7
 3. When crucified with Christ we won't miss assembly but glad that God allows assemble Heb 10:25
- B. Christ was pure in life 1Pet 2:22
 1. Though Paul was human, he worked hard to keep his life pure 1Cor 9:27
 2. When crucified with Christ, we will constantly be striving to put down every temptation Phil 4:8

3. Purity of life is an evidence of having been baptized into the death of Christ Rom 6:4

- C. Jesus had compassion upon humanity Mk 6:34
 1. As one in whom Christ lived, Paul deeply grieved over lost state of Jewish people
 2. His love so great was willing to bear their curse, if by doing so they might be saved Rom 9:2,3
 3. Concerned about spiritual needs yet also concerned about the temporal needs of the poor saints
 - a. Encouraged those who had this world's goods to help those who did not have 2Cor 8:13,14
 - b. Why? That there might be equality
 4. We also must be concerned in both areas
- D. Jesus drove out those who made His Father's house a place of merchandise Matt 21:12,13
 1. Paul's letters to Corinth pointed out clearly their misconduct, and faults that must be corrected 1Cor 5:1-7
 2. When crucified with Christ, we will strive to present the church to Christ, a glorious church without spot, and blemish, by presenting ourselves an offering holy and without blemish
- E. Christ could not tolerate corruption of his Father's word
 1. Dealing with Pharisees and scribes Matt 15:1-9
 2. Paul condemned and warned against error Gal 1:8
 3. When crucified with Christ, we will respect God's word knowing that it is truth Jhn 17:17
 - a. By it only can we be freed from sin Jhn 8:32
 - b. We will be satisfied with it
 - c. His word was God's word Jhn 6:38; 12:49

CONCLUSION:

- A. Paul, because Christ lived in him, looked toward wearing a crown Lk 23:46; 2Tim 4:7,8
- B. When we have been crucified with Christ, we understand that our citizenship is in heaven and we look forward to that day when we can come before and behold the glory of him who is King of kings and Lord of lords Phil 3:20