

Press on with Hope

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Scripture: Galatians 2: 20 (NIV)

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.

Many may ask the question; “how have I been crucified with Christ?” This question may be answered by recognizing that God looks at us as if we had died with Christ. Because our sins died with Him, we are no longer condemned. We have become one with Christ, and His experiences has become ours. Our Christen life began when, in unity with Him, we died to our old life.

If you ever tried to describe how much you loved someone, you know how seemingly impossible that is to do. Paul helps us with that as well when he continues in the text, “and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith *in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself* up for me.” The object of the belief, trust, or faith by which the Christian is to live is Jesus Christ! To live by faith is to live trusting Jesus, who loved us to the point of dying in our place purchasing our salvation. This trust should be a constant throughout the life of the believer.

We must regularly crucify sinful desires that keep us from following Christ. And yet the focus of Christianity is not dying but living. Because we have been crucified with Christ, we have also been raised with Him.

We can press on with hope because we have Christ’s resurrection power as we continue to fight sin. We can press on with hope because we no longer look upon our old self as dead, but instead, be alive to God as we press on. We can press on with hope in our hearts because we are not walking alone.

If the truth is told, we would most likely be able to agree that people are willing to pay a high price for something they value. We must ask ourselves what amount of value we are willing to place on having a loving and genuine relationship with God. At the same time, we must realize that this will require a great deal of denying self. Therefore, we must be willing to deny self; to take up our crosses, and to follow Him.

Press On my brothers and sisters, we are no longer alone, for Christ lives in us. He is our power for living and our hope for the future. Press on with hope!