CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST
Crucified with Christ

by
Charles Lincoln
Introduction:

The Christian’s life is about understanding the Bible. It is about becoming more familiar with and understanding the theology that is in the Bible. I want to teach from the book of Galatians so that we can better understand a very important doctrine - being crucified with Christ.

Christianity is not just a shouting religion where we climb the walls and praise God. Thank God, that is part of the experience, but Christianity is also a thinking religion. It demands that we employ our minds, that we think through the theology that the Holy Spirit gave us. We are to understand God's viewpoint on salvation and how His redemption plan has been put together.
Chapter 1

The Proper Use of the Law

What is it to be Dead to the Law?:

*Galatians 2:19* For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

Paul is the author of the book of Galatians, which was inspired by the Holy Spirit. Man's mentality from the very beginning is that of legalism. We naturally think that if we keep a set of rules, it makes God happy. That is wrong. It is wrong, not because we should not obey the rules,
but because we are morally broken and cannot keep the rules at God's level of perfection. In other words, you cannot make God happy through your failed attempts to keep the Law. Even if it were just the Ten Commandments, you have still already failed. At God's level of absolute perfection, you must keep the Law from the first breath you take as a child, all the way through the end of eternity future.

By the time you understood that a commandment even existed, you had already broken it. God's Commandments are like a long chain. If you break one link, that means you broke the entire chain. Therefore, as a fallen creation, it is impossible for us to keep the Law. So then, the means by which we have relationship with
God cannot be through Law, because we cannot perfectly keep it.

Paul says that through the Law, he is dead to the Law so that he might live unto God. As long as you are alive to the Law, it is to that extent that you are dead to God. As long as you are trying to please God through your failed attempts at law-keeping, it is to that extent that you are not fully alive to Him.

If you have one foot in law-keeping and the other foot in God's grace, you are not experiencing the full impact of what Jesus has for you and what He has done for you at the cross. In fact, you are frustrating the grace of God. We must become dead to the Law.
What is the Proper Use of the Law?:

Galatians 3:24  Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

You may wonder, if we do not please God by keeping the Law, why would God give us the Law? Because we are stubborn and sometimes arrogant.

God gave us the Law so that when we fail, however many times it takes, our failure proves that we cannot keep the Law. There is no one who can credibly say he has kept all of God's Commands, other than Jesus Christ.

Paul says the Law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ.
A schoolmaster is a teacher who is helping you learn a specific topic. The Law was given to teach us that we have no hope within ourselves of satisfying God through the means of legalism. When God came down on Mount Sinai, He gave a full body of legislation to Moses. He gave the Law of God, the Ten Commandments, the civil law, and the ceremonial law to Israel. Moses was on the mountain some forty days and he could not even fully descend from the mountain, before Aaron, the high priest, had caused the people to become naked and worship before a golden calf.

The ten commandments were not even presented to Israel before they were already breaking it. Moses became so enraged that he broke the
tablets and God had to rewrite the tablets. That was on day one!

Because of the fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden and the sin nature that abides within the human race, we are incapable of keeping the Law. God gave the Law because if He simply told mankind that we were corrupt, we would not believe Him.

When Moses came down from the Mountain the second time, he said, "These are the Commandments of the Lord." All of Israel said, "We'll do them!" But they had already broken the Law. When it comes to the Law, there are no do-overs. It is either you kept it or you broke not. If you offend the Law in one point, the Scripture says you have offended the whole Law.
Thus, the Law was our schoolmaster. It was given as a tutor to help you understand that you have failed. One day you lied. The next day, you stole. Then you said, "Oh man, I'll do better! "The next day, you lied again. Year after year after year, you break the Commandments. At some point, you wake up and realize you are incapable of obeying the Law perfectly.

Paul said in Romans 7:19, "For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do." Paul is saying that it is his heart to live holy and righteous before God. However, the very things of righteousness that he wants to do, he does not do consistently. But those things that he does not want to do, he does consistently.
At the end of the seventh chapter, Paul came to a place where he said, "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" That is when the light turned on for him. He realized that he could not deliver himself. He went on to say, "I thank the Lord Jesus Christ, because He is the one who did it!"

So, the Law was given, although we do not call it the Law anymore. Now we call it "keeping the Word". You cannot have a full relationship with God by trying to keep the Word of God in your own strength. You have a relationship with God by the blood of the Lamb and following the prompting of the Holy Spirit, who will empower you. When you do so, it is not you keeping the Word of God, it is Christ in you, walking out
His lifestyle. In doing this, you automatically keep the Word of God. For example, my wife went out of town one time. It never once came to my mind, "Thou shalt not commit adultery!" I do not have to worry about keeping that Commandment. I am operating in love, so there is no struggle in that area, in fact there is not even a thought of infidelity.

When you live in relationship with the God through the Holy Spirit, you are operating at that level of a godly Christian lifestyle. The Bible says the Law is for the ungodly. Well, I am not the ungodly. I am the godly, and I am walking after the Holy Spirit. He leads me and guides me.

You do not have to go to marriage counselling to figure out how to live
peaceably with your spouse. Some Christians think, "Let me find a Christian counsellor to teach me how to live with this person to whom I am married" No. You just follow after the Holy Spirit, and He will teach you if you will just walk with Him. He will teach you how to have a relationship that is better than anything you could have ever done yourself. The biggest part of every problem is you. It is the heart of the individual which is the biggest part of the problem.

Paul is saying that he, through the proper use of the Law, has become dead to the Law. He was a Pharisee - a Pharisee of Pharisees. He was a legalist of legalists, so much that he persecuted the Church. But when Christ took hold of his heart and
began to reveal to him the true meaning of God's redemption plan, it changed Paul.

Before, he had tried to please God through his law-keeping efforts, but this was not working. Such religious calisthenics only proved to Paul that he was a failure. The schoolmaster was teaching him that he was a failure in himself. Jesus said it this way in John 15, verse 5: "**Without Me you can do nothing.**"

How then, how do you become dead to the Law? When you come to Jesus Christ with saving faith. I am not just talking about an acquiescence to His political views. I am talking about Lord Jesus saving you from hell! I am talking about the real born-again experience. The Holy Spirit picks you
up out of the body of the first Adam, in which you are on your way to hell, then brings you over and baptizes you into Jesus Christ. He makes you a member of the Body of Christ. Once you are a member of the Body of Christ, everything Jesus is, you are!

Two thousand years ago, Jesus was crucified. Because you are a member of His body, as Paul said, you were crucified with Christ. When He died, you died. When they put Him in a grave, the old man that you were was buried. Three days later when He arose, you rose with him in the newness of life. You are no longer who you used to be. You have been baptized, submerged, immersed into Jesus Christ.

When you were crucified with Christ, you died. You, in a sense, were put to
death on the cross with Jesus. There is nothing that severs a relationship like death. I use this analogy: My wife recently got back from travelling. When she returned, I pulled her close to me and gave her a kiss on the cheek. Then I told her that I love her. That is good for her husband to do, and it is good for wives to do as well. However, if my wife dies, she will never get another kiss from me. This is not because I do not love her, it is because she is dead, and death severs every relationship. When you are crucified with Christ, it severs your relationship to the Law. You are no longer under the Law. You have no more obligation to the Law. But now that you are dead to the Law, you are alive to the Creator!
You are alive to Jesus Christ—glory to God!

Paul said in Galatians 2:20, concerning the crucifixion, "I am crucified with Christ." Now listen to the words. "I am" is present tense. Christ was crucified about fifty-eight years prior to when Paul made this statement. He said, "I am [present tense] crucified with Christ [past tense]." Even though it has been two thousand years since Christ was crucified, we can say, "We are [present tense] crucified with Christ, two thousand years ago."

In other words, we are a living sacrifice. The term "living sacrifice is oxymoronic because "living" implies alive but a sacrifice is a dead animal. But Paul said in Romans 12:1 that we
are a living sacrifice. Because of our union with Christ we are alive from the dead. I died with Christ, yet here I am - I am alive, but not I. "I" in the Greek is the word *ego*. It is not the old *ego* that is alive– the ego that wanted everything for self. You see, the former trinity was me, myself, and I. But Paul said, it is not I, but now it is Christ in me. And the life that I am now living in this fleshly body, I am living by my faith of the Son of God.

I do not know where you are in your salvation, but He walks in me. He talks in me. He lives, He moves, He takes His being inside of my physical body. If you are born-again, He fits so comfortably in you that sometimes you think it is just you. But if it were just you, you would be the same dope.
smoker you were before your union with Christ. You would be the same alcoholic, the same womanizer, the same man chaser you were before salvation. So now it is not you, but "Christ liveth in you."

The life that we live in the flesh is to be lived by our faith in the Son of God. This is the core of Christian theology. You must know this. You cannot be a maturing Christian and not understand such core fundamentals. This is what the crucifixion was all about. The crucifixion was not about making you feel bad about the physical pain that Jesus went through. Yes, He went through some physical pain, but the spiritual aspect of it was much worse than anything physical that He went through.
Can you admit that you are a lawbreaker? You have broken the Law, and the wages of sin is death. A law cannot be a law unless it carries a punishment. The punishment that all of mankind owes is called the sin debt. We have offended God's sense of divine justice by our sins. It does not matter if you simply put your hand in the cookie jar when you were a child or murdered a person as an adult; it is sin. All of those sins add up. We are condemned many times over by the time we even know there is a Savior.

Now, God does not say, "I'm just going to wipe all your sins away because you're a good person. He doesn't simply say you're good and I love you so your sins are fine." He would not be a just God if He did
that. For example, imagine if there were a judge, and people were being brought before him for murder, bank robbing, and kidnapping. Suppose he gave every one of them twenty-five to fifty years, or put them to death. But then his nephew, Bobby comes in, convicted of a crime. He robbed a bank and killed four people. So the judge says to Bobby, "Oh, you know what? I love you, so I am releasing from your crimes. Go free." That judge would not be just. God cannot simply wipe your sin away without penalty, or He would not be a just God. Your sin must be punished.

On a hill two thousand years ago, all of the punishment for our sin was laid upon Jesus. " All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD
hath laid on him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all.". Then, when He had hung upon the cross for six hours, He bowed His head and gave up the ghost. He endured the burning wrath of God's judgment against sin.

The impact of God's wrath is infinite; that is why the Lake of Fire is infinite. Therefore, the infinite Son of God paid all of our sins, even for those of us who had not yet been saved. However, that payment is only applied to those who have accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour.

Jesus carried the sin debt of the human race and He stood before the Father in judgment. An infinite Father smote the infinite Son with infinite wrath. But because the Son is infinite, the only thing that was
demolished was the sin debt! Hallelujah! The Son is now the Saviour and your sins are gone!

So Paul realized he could not keep the Law. He tried and tried and tried, but he realized he was unable to keep all the Law. Who was going to redeem him? He was looking for a saviour. He began looking for redemption, a sacrifice for his lawbreaking. Paul, through the Law, became dead to the Law when he accepted Christ, and so did you. You were crucified with Jesus by faith. Jesus took the real punishment. It was put on the books that your punishment was paid!

If you are saved today, you have a relationship with the Father. I do not mean that you agree with God's
political slant. I do not mean you are a Republican, therefore you are saved. I mean that when you wake up in the morning, God is the first thing on your mind. For example, when I lay down at night, I listen to the Word of God all night long. The things of God are woven within the fiber of what I am, and if you are saved today, you know what I am talking about. I would have to extremely violate my conscience to live outside of relationship with God.

Jeremiah said (I am paraphrasing), —God, I'm done. I will not be preaching your Word any more."The Bible said he tried to walk away. Then he noticed, "Wait a minute...this Word is like a fire shut up in my bones! I can't hold it! I have got to
open my mouth! I have got to say something for the Lord!"

You may not have the Word burning in you, but God has placed a lamp in your soul that you cannot easily extinguish. Even when you try to go left, you know you are supposed to be going right. When you try to go left, something inside, the conviction power of the Holy Ghost, says, "No, do not go that way. See that? Touch it not." It is because you are alive to God.

There are A large part of society on this planet today does not have that touch of God on their hearts. They are unaware of the Kingdom of God.

When the Bible says that one day God is going to speak a word and then millions upon millions of
people, some of whom have been dead for thousands of years, are going to meet the Lord in the air, they say that is foolishness. But it is not foolishness to me. We have tasted the power of the world to come. We have tasted the resurrection power of the living Christ.

God's power is sustaining us right now. Considering all of the sins I was involved in, some of the greatest addictions in life, I am being held by the power of His resurrection today! He is holding me firm so that every morning, I do not go to the dope house. I do not go to some woman's house. I come to the church house! I have a relationship with my God. Hallelujah!
It took ten years in church before I realized that the Law is not the way. Have you ever tried to live in legalism? You can learn how to cover up your failures in church, but the best thing that could have ever happened was for God to expose me. All of my legalistic hypocrisies, He just exposed them. At that point, I had nothing to lose. I thought, "Well, everybody already knows I'm on doper. I might as well go ahead and get right with God." Then I started to really understand what grace is.

Grace is unmerited divine assistance. Grace is the effectual working of the Spirit of God in your heart and life. Simply, it is help from God. Keep in mind that God is omnipotent; as much help as you need, He has. No
matter what the problem is, He has all the help you need and then some.

It does not take very long before the failures start stacking up. I had failed ten thousand times. I had gotten tired of trying to live Christianity through legalism. I ended up in a mental institution with the doors locked. I went to my room and fell across the bed. I was broken. My stubbornness had been broken. I said, "Lord, I can't do it. I can't go any further." That is right where He wanted me. Just like that, it was over. I had to come to the place where I could admit I cannot do it. There is a worship song that which lyrics are, "I might limp away, [from my meeting with God] but I'll never be the same. I'll never be the same."
Learn how to live in God's grace. That does not mean you live in lawlessness. God still has a moral code. Even though I am walking in grace, God would be very displeased with me if I even had a mental relationship with another woman other than my wife, such as an office romance. The Holy Spirit holds you to a higher standard than simply, "Do not commit adultery." He expects you to not mentally or emotionally engage with someone other than your spouse. The Law said "Thou Shalt not commit adultery", but Jesus said "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed
adultery with her already in his heart."

For those about my age or older, the sins were smoking dope, drinking liquor, running with women, or running with men, and things like that. In the hour that we are in now, this young generation, the sins are wicked, dirty, and dark. You can make a professional prostitute blush with some of the material that is sung in popular rap songs today. Our young generations needs the Holy Ghost! They need the power of God in their lives! You are not going to make it without the Holy Ghost, which is part of our relationship with God. The powers of darkness are so strong now that if you do not have the Holy Ghost, you are not going to make it.
For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God." Those are not just poetic words that Paul put on a sheet of paper. It is Christian theology that each of us as Christians must understand.
The entire epistle of Romans and specifically the sixth chapter is perhaps one of the most misunderstood books of the New Testament. Within Chapter 6 of this great epistle, Paul details very precisely the definition of God’s plan for victorious living –In Christ‖, which is the meaning of the New Covenant.

Available at ChristUnveiled.org
Ephesians Commentary

The book of Ephesians presents truths on a wide spectrum of moral and ethical behaviors, designed to ensure Christians live up to our heavenly expectation. The first three chapters of the book present Christian theology and the last three chapters reflect the practical application of those doctrines in one’s everyday life.

Available at ChristUnveiled.org
Many in our modern age of Christianity attempt to hold to Jesus and at the same time look for help in from other quarters. Yet the Apostle Paul in the epistle to the Colossians protests over and again that "ye are complete in him" meaning the person of Christ is sufficient for every need of the human heart.

*Available at ChristUnveiled.org*
The book of Galatians presents the strongest argument concerning the Grace versus Law controversy found anywhere in the New Testament. The apostle Paul establishes the doctrine of justification by faith in Christ alone. In doing so he provides a wealth of wisdom and insight from the Old Testament scriptures.

*Available at ChristUnveiled.org*