

Reflection

- Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- Sinclair Ferguson

From beginning to end the Christian life is Christ-centered and we are constantly to look to him for all the spiritual provision we need. Just as a shoot is grafted into the vine and receives its nourishment from the vine, so the disciple is “in Christ” and draws from Christ all spiritual benefits. It is no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us. The life we now live is through faith in the Son of God who has loved us and given himself for us. It may be asked in response to these dimensions of our fellowship in Christ: Surely we must be many years on the road with Christ before we are recipients of all of these dimensions? But this is to misunderstand! These are not benefits to which faith works up, but blessings which are bestowed upon us the moment we belong to Christ. If we are Christians, all of this is true of all of us all of the time! When Christ became ours, he became ours in his entirety in order to work in us a full salvation. It is this which is the ultimate purpose of the union which we have been describing.

INGATHERING

Song of Preparation: *In Christ Alone*

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!

My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.
In Christ alone! who took on flesh Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness scorned by the ones he came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am his and he is mine bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.

No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till he returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.
Keith Getty & Stuart Townend © 2001 Kingsway Thankyou Music, CCLI#2249825

Silent Prayer of Preparation

PRAISE

*Responsive Call to Worship

- Galatians 2:20 (adapted)

If we are united to Christ by faith, we can say
I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.

And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

As those who have Christ living in them, let us worship the Lord!

*Hymns of Praise

Just As I Am, without One Plea

Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

#518: *Christ, of All My Hopes the Ground*

*Prayer of Adoration

*Responsive Affirmation of Faith

- Ephesians 1:3-7, 11-12; 2:5-6, 8-10 (adapted)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,
even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,
which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

Even when we were dead in our trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ - by grace we have been saved - and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

For by grace we have been saved through faith. And this is not our own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Offertory Music: *The Love of God*

- Ron Leaman

***Hymn #455:** *And Can It Be That I Should Gain*

***Benediction**

***Please stand, if able**

RENEWAL

Pastoral Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

- *Psalm 86:5, 11*

You, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you. Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.

*Hymns of Confidence

O Great God

O great God of highest heaven occupy my lowly heart
Own it all and reign supreme conquer every rebel power
Let no vice or sin remain that resists your holy war
You have loved and purchased me make me yours forevermore

I was blinded by my sin had no ears to hear your voice
Did not know your love within had no taste for heaven's joys
Then your Spirit gave me life opened up your Word to me
Through the gospel of your Son gave me endless hope and peace

Help me now to live a life that's dependent on your grace
Keep my heart and guard my soul from the evils that I face
You are worthy to be praised with my every thought and deed
O great God of highest heaven glorify your Name through me

Words and music by Bob Kauflin as recorded on *Valley of Vision*
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#645: *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

Welcome and Announcements

Please fill out and pass the friendship registration pad.

Prayers of the People

COMMITMENT

Reading of God's Word - *Acts 9:1-19 (Sanctuary Bible, p.1167)*

Sermon: *Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!* - Rev. Bill Massey

Offertory Words - *2 Corinthians 8:9*

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.