

The Lakeland Hills Leader

Lakeland Hills Blvd church of Christ

2510 Lakeland Hills Blvd
Lakeland, FL 33805
(863) 688-4336

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:00 AM Bible Study
9:50 AM Worship
5:00 PM Worship

Wednesday

7:00 PM Bible Study

Visit our Website:

www.lakelandhillschurchofchrist.com

For Sermon & Class outlines,
Bible Study Materials and
Other Information.

Visit our Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/LakelandHillschurchofchrist for events,
information, and links to our
YouTube Archives

Visit us on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCu7AG_3jUtpBDlr2NPqB3iw for
Live Streams and Video
Archives.

Elders

Bob Marschall
Leon Miller
Larry Wisdom

Deacons

Bucky Day
Sherman Johnson
Michael Sadler
David Williams

Evangelist

Kent Heaton

NO LONGER I, BUT CHRIST

by David A. Cox

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; 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 for me" -- (Gal. 2:20)

This statement from Paul is both powerful and deeply personal. How could Paul say that Christ now lived in him? How did such a transformation occur? It was because Paul had surrendered himself completely to Christ and was molding his life into the image of the Savior. Paul began this process on the road to Damascus. After encountering the risen Lord, Ananias told him, "Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins" (Acts 22:16). Before his conversion, Paul had lived according to the flesh and gloried in his position as a Jew and Pharisee (Phil. 3:4-7). He pursued reputation, influence, and recognition among religious leaders. But when Paul obeyed Christ, everything changed. He no longer lived according to his own will or ambitions. Instead, he crucified the old life in order to live for Christ.

Putting Off the Old Man

Paul explained this transformation further in Romans 6: "Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life... knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with" (Rom. 6:4,6).

When one obeys the gospel, the old man of sin is put to death. The Christian rises from baptism to walk a new life. The affections and lusts of the flesh are no longer to rule the heart (Galatians 5:24). The Christian belongs to Christ.

The Focus of Our Life

Because of this new life, our focus changes. Paul wrote that Christians are to "seek those things which are above" (Colossians 3:1-4). Christ becomes the center of life.

Yes, we still live in the flesh, but now our desires are directed by faith in Christ. We trust Him, follow His word, and seek His guidance in our decisions (Rom. 10:17; Prov. 3:5-6). Our goal becomes pleasing Him in all things.

The Motivation of Our Life

What motivates such devotion? Paul answers: "Who loved me and gave Himself for me."

The sacrifice of Christ is one of the greatest motivations for faithful living. When we think about the cross and the love demonstrated there, we are moved to serve Him more faithfully. Christ valued us enough to give His life for us. In response, we should desire to live for Him and fulfill the work He has given us to do.

May God help us truly to be "crucified with Christ," molding our lives into the image of His dear Son. May our prayer continually be: "Mold me, make me, as You'd have me be, take me, use me, that the lost may see; Guard me, guide me through this pilgrim land, make me as clay in the Potter's Hand.

Jeremiah 18:1-6 - *I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something on the wheel. But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so, he remade it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make. Then the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Can I not, O house of Israel, deal with you as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Isreal".*