

Scripture: Galatians 2:20

Notes: How God dealt with Israel gives us insight on how he deals with us. Egypt is a picture of the world. First the Israelites are in bondage in Egypt, travel through the wilderness and finally to the promise land. Last week we looked at life in the wilderness. Today we are going to look at life in the Promised Land. Keswick labels this victorious Christian/ the spiritual man/ life in the Promised Land. *Crucifixion must move us from the wilderness to the promise land.* Crucifixion seems a little extreme but remember Jesus was crucified for us or we would still be in Egypt, lost in sin. In order to understand this we must understand what we mean by the Promised Land. For the Jewish people it was the actual land promised to the descendants of Abraham. For us it best described as a place of rest, of peace and contentment.

I. Christ is your life. Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Our goal is to live in victory over sin. What does it mean to be crucified with Christ. Romans 6:6-7;11 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.....Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. First we accept the fact that our old nature was crucified with Jesus at Calvary. Next we decide no sin is acceptable in our lives. Now some of you may say Pastor your crazy after all I am only human; everybody sins. Of course we are going to sin we are just deciding it isn't acceptable anymore.

1. Jesus is the source of life for a crucified believer. (20b) I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. There are a couple things I want to look at in this verse:

A. Paul declares that Jesus is living in Him. Paul is saying that he maintains a conscious contact with Jesus; that he realizes Jesus is working through him. In 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. Jesus is reaching people through Paul; Paul is a willing ambassador leading people to the saving knowledge of Jesus.

B. Jesus is faithful to supply us with the power to serve Him. the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, I believe the wording is critical here; I live by the faith of Jesus. That means Jesus is faithful and will not let Paul down. Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. I can do all things through Christ; this confirms Jesus promise in John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. Paul is experiencing fruit for God in his life because he is abiding in Christ.

C. A crucified life is a process of spiritual transformation. When we look at verse 20 we read that Paul says the life he is living is not his; it is Christ living in him. Folks may say not all unsaved people are bad; some are even more moral than Christians. That is true but they are still seeking the things of the flesh; they are not thinking about God at all. What is the process of transformation? Conviction, repentance, faith in Christ shed blood and belief in the resurrection; salvation. But there is more to the process. The Christian life is daily surrender. Let me show you what I mean. 1 Corinthians 15:31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. We know he is not dying physically or spiritually so what is he

talking about? **Luke 9:23** And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. That means I surrender my will on a daily basis. I die daily to self; I take up my cross. Remember we said earlier that our old man has been crucified with Christ; to take up my cross means my desire my heart is to seek the things of Christ; when we do that God helps us on our journey.

II. The Holy Spirit Controls us. Romans 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. The way to Spirit control is through learning and living what God teaches us in the Bible through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is actually spiritual transformation of our minds. It is obvious you cannot be transformed if you are conformed to the world. Being conformed to the world is living in the wilderness. In the Promised Land we start to naturally seek the things of Christ. **1 Corinthians 2:9-13** But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. ¹⁰ But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. ¹¹ For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. The closer we get to Christ the more truth God is able to reveal to us.

III. Christ is the master. John 15:5; 10-11 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. Jesus tells us He is the source of our strength. The key to victory is abiding in Christ. The key to abiding in Christ is to keep his commandments which we are able to do through the power of the Holy Spirit who empowers us to keep them. When we are attached to the vine Christ is master.

IV. Self has been dispossessed. Galatians 6:14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. We realize that all we have is a result of God's grace. The focus of the mind is Jesus. We don't do this very well. Most of us spend a lot of our lives doing exactly what we want to do. We will always find time to do what we want to do. Jesus is present in our lives but he is not president.

V. Victory is evident. 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. There is the outward evidence to the world; no longer go to drug or alcohol parties, language changes, the way we dress changes, we stop stealing or lying. Instead of being grumpy or depressed all the time we are cheerful and full of hope. The world can easily see that. But there is another change; we know that Jesus is with us, the Holy Spirit tells us we belong to Jesus. We have a new peace because we can glory in the cross.

VI. The victorious Christian will realize there is an overt assault by Satan against them. John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. Satan knows the victorious Christian has within his grasp the opportunity for an abundant life and he will do anything he can to see we don't experience it. Remember the tools of Spiritual warfare. Make sure you keep the armor described in Ephesians 6:10-19.

VII. Who you are in Christ is determined by where you live spiritually. In Egypt Satan is in control and you are clearly living outside of the will of God. If you've never accepted Jesus as Savior this is who you are. If you are backslidden Christian you can by choice live in Egypt and you will suffer the pain of sin but who you are is determined by how you live. Understand it is not God's fault, or Satan's fault you have made a choice to live apart from God. In the wilderness there is coexistence with Satan. The spirit of compromise is prevalent. There is spiritual immaturity, unbelief and flesh driven lifestyles. The song in the wilderness is I surrender some and I would like to surrender more but right now it is just not convenient. Living in the Promised Land is a life of victory and of peace. Satan is angry because he knows the victorious Christian is a threat to his kingdom. They will tell others about Jesus and they will experience victory over sin. **Matthew 11:28-30** Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. The victorious Christian has found rest for their souls because they have found their rest in Jesus. Who are you?