

Because Christ was Crucified, We Can...

2 Cor. 5.14-15

Intro:

Christ was willing to be our sinless sacrifice for sin. He was prophesied by Isaiah to be brutally beaten and crucified for our transgression and for our iniquity (Isa. 52.14; 53.1-12). Jesus was willing to satisfy the will and wrath of God to save sinners (1 Jn. 2.1-2; Jn. 3.16 & Rom. 5.8-9). He was willing to demonstrate true love for God by sanctifying Himself (Jn. 17.19) and then cleansing us from our sin in His own blood through the cross (Rev. 1.5; Col. 1.20). What wondrous love we see, freely shown for you and me...! Here is the question, "since He was crucified for us, what can we do for Him?"

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Discourse:

I. Serve God Acceptably...

A. With Reverence and Godly Fear... (Heb. 12.28-29)

1. Jesus made this possible by providing His blood (Heb. 9.13-14).
2. We actually are allowed to approach God through Jesus.
3. Through His covenant, we are allowed to know God (Heb. 9.15).
 - a) Making it possible to worship the Father (Jn. 4.23-24)
 - b) Positioning us to actually come before God in holiness.
 - c) Making it possible to be forgiven by God.
 - d) That's the least we can do.

B. Through our Reasonable Service... (Rom. 12.1-21)

1. These things are good and acceptable before God.
2. Our service requires taking spirituality seriously (vs. 9).
3. We can truly demonstrate pure religion with one another (vs. 10ff)
 - a) Reasonable service looks for opportunities for good.
 - b) Showing the world through serving each other (Jn. 13.35)
 - c) The things God asks of us are not burdensome (1 Jn. 5.3)

C. Through our Genuine Fellowship with one another... (Mal. 3.16-18)

1. Our reverence for God is seen in our fellowship.
2. God hears and sees our fellowship.
3. He writes about the great fellowshiping in His book.
 - a) When spiritual mindedness is primary, fellowship occurs.
 - b) We must not underestimate the value of building up (Jd. 20)
 - c) What will you give up to truly have genuine fellowship?

II. Truly Live...

A. Spiritually Led Lives (**Romans 8.1-17**)

1. Spiritual lives are produced by the Law of the Spirit (8.1-2)
2. Christ's law teaches us to think and be spiritually minded (5-6)
3. Living for Christ results in *Adoption; Spiritual Security & Heirship with Christ* (15-17)

B. Faithful Lives (**Heb. 11.1; 6**)

1. God's system of faith develops hope based on evidence.
2. Our lives should directly reflect the commands of God.
3. Without trust, faithfulness to God is not possible.

C. Fruitful and Fulfilled Lives (**Col. 1.9-11**)

1. We cannot bear fruit to God without Christ and His sacrifice. (Rom. 7.4)
2. We can fully please God because of Christ. (do we believe this?)
3. Producing fruit because of the Spirit's teaching (Gal. 5.16; 22-23).
4. Bearing fruit according to our ability (Mk 4.20 - 30; 60; 100 fold)

III. Look Ahead...

A. Towards the goal of *getting better and better* as a Christian (**Phil. 3.12-14**)

1. Striving to cling to the One who bought us with His blood (vs. 12)
2. Learning to forget about the past and look forward to the Resurrection Day (vs. 13)
3. The prize we're longing for the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (vs. 14)

B. Towards proper *thinking worthy* of following (**Phil. 4.8-9**)

1. Of Strengthening Our Thinking (8a)
2. Of Securing Our Virtue or Morality
3. Of Solidifying Our View of Good (things)

C. Towards the **Hope** of Eternal Life (**Col. 1.3-5**)

1. That is laid up in heaven...
2. A protected hope (1 Pet. 1.4-5).
3. A saving hope (Rom. 8.24-25).

Conclusion:

Because of what Christ did for us, we can at least live for Him and serve Him diligently and with our entire being. May God bless us to be faithful, fixed and fruitful in all we do for His Son.