

From Pastor's Desk...

Life – Jesus died that we may live

King Solomon lived for knowledge, pleasure, wealth, power and fame- but at the end of his life, all that remained was frustration, emptiness, and an unsatisfied heart. But Apostle Paul, transformed by the love of Christ writes, He died for all, that, those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again (2Cor 5:15).

Once, a Christian believer said to his friend who was seeking peace through his own works that you have a two- letter religion but, I have a four-letter one. How's that, asked the other man. He responded; your religion is 'do' but my religion is 'done'. You are trying to rest in what you do. I am resting in what Christ has done.

The various New Testament writings integrate the death of Jesus as understood as God's reconciling love toward humanity. It is God who takes the initiative to accomplish redemption through the death of Jesus Christ. God has given us the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes (Rom. 1:16). Jesus spoke of his salvation as a new-birth experience. He repeated thrice the divine imperative of this new-birth (Jn. ch.3). Paul emphasized the necessity for new life. If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away, behold all things have become new (2Cor 5:17).

The good news is that through Christ we have forgiveness from sin, reconciliation with God and peace that guards our hearts and fullness of life which includes the life after death. Those who live through faith in Christ should live no longer for themselves but for Him. All those who are in Christ are seen by God as having died to sin. Paul reckons water baptism for those believe in Christ as a visual demonstration of baptism into Christ. In the process of identification, it pictures the new man in Christ rising to walk in newness of life.

The eternal life is the gift of God which is made available through the death and resurrection of Christ. The new life has present and future dimensions, abundant life to be lived now, being victorious over the guilt and power of sin, and the long life to be enjoyed, being victorious over the presence of sin and death.

God bless you.

In His Glorious Ministry,

Rev. K. P. Mathew

Senior Pastor, IPC Hebron, Los Angeles

New life in Jesus

Denny Varghese, Worship Lead (English)

The Cross is a sign of unmatched love. Rom 6:23 states, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." No human could pay the penalty for his/her own sin. Only one person could! God saw it fit to send His only son to the cross to bear the weight of the sin of the world.

God unashamedly and publicly displayed his love and commitment to us through the death of His son, Jesus Christ. His death paid the penalty in full and offers us, if we choose to accept it, eternal life through faith in Him. Jesus died that we may live a life daily of denying ourselves, taking up our cross and following Him. That was precisely the life of Paul. Paul was even ready to lose his life for Jesus.

However, there is a much harder kind of death than that which is "dying to self". Dying to self means putting to death those areas and parts of ourselves that live selfishly in sinful rebellion. Paul knew that he had died to sin and rose to new life in Christ Jesus when he had identified with Jesus through faith.

Have we personally believed and accepted this new life in Jesus Christ? Have we also unashamedly made a public display of our belief and commitment to Him alone? Are we able to join with Paul and honestly say, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me (Gal 2:20)." The life that Jesus offers is one that is no longer a slave to sin.

The choice is simple: eternal life or eternal death. Choose LIFE!

Life Forever

Pr. Moncy Varughese, Prayer Coordinator

Bible says "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16. Today, mankind is so much concerned about this earthly life that they have classified the life itself into different categories such as healthy life, happy life, and peaceful life and so on. However, apart from all these lives man is trying to achieve, there is the most important one, the eternal life through the Savior named Jesus Christ as mentioned, which is being ignored silently.

Apostle Paul describes about those without Christ, as dead in their sins. Every person who is separated from Christ is excluded from the citizenship in heaven, foreigners for God's new covenant of promise, without hope, and without God in the world. But if anyone who is willing to declare with mouth that "Jesus is Lord," and believe in the heart that that God raised him from dead, then He will make him or her alive.

The death of our Lord Jesus Christ is the greatest example of love known to humanity—God became flesh and died for our sins. He died so that we may live through Him forever. Without Christ, there is no salvation. Only God can make one alive, and God does this through Jesus Christ. It is not that we loved God, but He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 John 4:9-10)

As we have seen how much our God has loved us, let us keep our focus on His son Jesus Christ and our trust in Him completely who is able to help us reach the destiny of Eternal Life through Him, and Him alone!