

The Normal Christian Life

The Path of Progress: Knowing

Our Death with Christ – A Historic Fact

- In **Romans 6:1–11** it is made very clear that the death of the Lord Jesus is **representative** and **inclusive**.
 - To have **justification** we must see Him bearing **our sins** on the Cross.
 - To have **sanctification** we must see Him bearing **us** on the Cross.
 - **Our sins** have been laid on Him and **we ourselves** have been put into Him.
- We receive **forgiveness** and **deliverance** the same way – **the work has been done**; there is no need to pray but only to **praise**.
 - Our sins were dealt with by His Blood, and we were dealt with by His Cross; it is an **accomplished fact**.
 - **Psa. 106:12** – Then they **believed His words**; / They **sang His praise**.
- We believe that the Lord Jesus died because the **Word of God tells us so**.
 - We can know that we died on the Cross with Christ as **God has said so**.
 - It does not depend on our **feelings**.
- Our crucifixion can **never** be made effective **by will or by effort**, but only by **accepting** what the **Lord Jesus did on the Cross** – we cannot save ourselves.
- God **sets us free** from the dominion of sin, **not** by strengthening our old man but by **crucifying him**; not by helping him to do anything but by **removing** him from the scene of action.

The First Step: “Knowing This...”

- The normal Christian life must begin **not** with intellectual knowledge, but an **opening of the eyes of the heart** to see what we have in Christ.
- For the **written** Word of God to become a **living** Word from God to us, God had to give us “a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.”
 - When we **know** it in our own hearts, we “**see**” it in our spirit.
- We know that we have been saved and delivered because God has **revealed** it to us by **His Spirit**.

Divine Revelation Essential to Knowledge

- Our first step is to **seek** from God a knowledge that comes by **revelation** of the **finished work** of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross.
- We need not work to die, we need not wait to die, **we are dead**.
- We only need to **recognize** what the Lord has **already done** and to **praise Him** for it.

The Cross Goes to the Root of Our Problem

- God has done away with the **goods** (sins) and also made a clean sweep of the **factory** (sin) that produces the goods.
- The finished work of Christ has gone to the **root** of our problem and dealt with it.

(The Normal Christian Life – Chapter 3)