Crucified and Raised to Life with Christ

Good Friday and Easter mark the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the climax of the Christian church year. There's no doubt these are the events at the heart of our Christian Faith. During Holy Week, Christians around the world pause to remember and celebrate the great gift of salvation that we receive through Christ's sacrifice. The Apostle Paul teaches us that we receive this gift of salvation by faith, but he also makes clear, it's not just something that happens to us, but that we participate in both Christ's death and resurrection as well. Join us as we study Paul's teaching and discuss what it means and how it impacts our lives as faithful followers of Jesus Christ today.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Which days of Holy Week have you heard of? Which do you observe and which day of Holy Week is the most meaningful for you? Why?
- How do Christ's death and resurrection affect your daily life?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: Crucified and Raised to Life with Christ

READ Philippians 3:10-11, Galatians 2:20, Romans 6:1-14, 1 Corinthians 15:12-23

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In segment 1, as hosts Darrell Delaney and Scott Hoezee reflect on Philippians 3:10-11, Darrell states that suffering "is the best place to identify with what Christ has been through." Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- Were any of the teachings Scott and Darrell mentioned about baptism new to you (i.e. dying to the old sinful self and being reborn a new self in Christ, or baptism meaning "buried with Christ," or baptism being a symbol of drowning, being cleansed, and rising)? How does thinking about baptism by immersion help you remember your participation in Christ's death and resurrection as you observe Good Friday and Easter?
- At the end of segment 2, Scott and Darrell reflect on the significance of baptism and Scott notes that the Reformed tradition tends to practice the sprinkling form of baptism, but that when he baptizes an infant he intentionally uses as much water as he can in order to symbolize that God's *hesed* (loving-kindness), his grace, and his mercy are overflowing. In what ways have you seen God's *hesed* (loving-kindness), grace, and mercy overflowing in your life?
- Why is it important that our lives are intertwined with and that we have fellowship with Jesus in the events of the crucifixion and resurrection?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

2 Corinthians 4, Luke 9:21-24, Titus 2:11-14, Galatians 3:23-29, 1 Peter 2:19-25, 1 Peter 4:12-19

CONCLUSION

In segment 3, Scott observes that Paul's command in Romans 6:12 to "not let sin reign in your mortal body" would not be necessary if it wasn't possible for this to happen. Similarly, in 1 Peter 2:1-3 it says: "Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."

The Apostle Peter challenges believers to grow, to mature in the salvation we are given through Christ's death and resurrection. Think back over your life of faith. How have you already died to your old self? Where do you continue to need growth as you mature in faith? As you reflect, visualize your baptism. Imagine the sin you struggle with being put to death with Christ, drowned in the waters of baptism, and see yourself cleansed as you rise from the waters and are raised to new life with Christ.

Close your time of reflection with prayer. Offer thanksgiving for the ways you have already left sinful ways behind you. Petition the Holy Spirit for help with your struggles and living into your resurrected life. Give praise for the gift of Christ's work of salvation and for the grace and mercy God shows to you through your participation in Christ's death and resurrection.

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