



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – April 6, 2021

The Lord be with you.

The well known American preacher, Reverend RG Lee was visiting the holy land many years ago. And the first place he wanted to go was to Gordon's Calvary. It's that place where some believe that our Lord Jesus was crucified, perhaps you've seen pictures of it, it looks... It looks like a skull. Well, when Reverend Lee got to Gordon's Calvary, he wanted to climb to the top of the mountain, but his guide said that they could not do that, but Lee insisted and so they climbed then when they got to the top of Mount Calvary. Reverend Lee takes off his hat, and it becomes strangely silent, and after a few moments, the guide asks Reverend Lee, he says, Excuse me, sir, have you been here before? And Reverend Lee said, Oh yes, yes. I was here 2000 years ago. Well, you know that in saying that that Reverend Lee was talking about, the gospel good news, that when Jesus was crucified, we were crucified with Him, and all of our sin, all of our guilt or shame our judgment nailed to the cross with Jesus. I love the old spiritual that we sing on Good Fridays. Were you there when they crucified my Lord? And of course, the answer is yes. Yeah, yes, we were there with Jesus, which means that we were there with Jesus when God raised Him up from the grave.

Today, I wanted to reflect on a scripture with you that wonderfully expresses what we were remembering on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The scripture is Galatians Chapter 2, Verses 19 and 20, where the Apostle Paul writes, I have been crucified with Christ. And it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me, and the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me. So here is the oneness, the intimate union between Christ and His people so that what happens to Christ happens to us. Paul says, I have been crucified with Christ. So to believe in Christ crucified is not only to believe that Christ was crucified, but it is to believe that we were crucified with Him, all of our sins, all of our guilt, all of our shame, our judgment, crucified with Christ. So the union of Christ, the God-man with us is such that what affected him affects us. Such that the one died and lived in the other. Outwardly, we are the same person, but inwardly, we are new creations in Christ. I have been crucified with Christ. That is a fact that is true. And Paul can say, it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.

As a result of our participation with Christ in His death, we participate with Christ in his life. He lives in us. Outwardly, we look the same, but inwardly is the resurrected life of Jesus. Christ lives in me. Paul says, Christ is a source of all of the resurrection life. Our former sinful selves are crucified with Christ. Goodbye, good riddance to them, so that we now live by the mind of Christ in us, the heart of Christ beating in us, and His mighty power working in us. We now live in the flesh. Here on earth, we are flesh and blood people surrounded by problem, surrounded by cars, but the



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resurrected Christ is alive in you and me, so that we look to Him for forgiveness, we look to Him for peace, for joy, for power. We looked to him for every need.

So because of Good Friday and Easter Sunday, we can say, it is no longer I can live. But it is Christ who lives in me, and the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me. The same faith that gets us started in the Christian life, is it a faith that we live by each day, reliance on the Son of God, looking to Him for strength for the day. Trusting in His promises, trusting in His grace, and faith in Christ means for Paul. Faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me. Did you hear that? For me, for me, it is not only faith that Christ, love the world and gave Himself for the world, but faith that appropriates, faith that makes that personal that Christ loved me and gave himself for me.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

I hope you'll say yes. Were you there when he raised up from the grave? I hope you'll say yes. I hope that you have said that and trust it in and believe in, that you have made it personal for you. The Christ loved me and gave himself for me. Because after all, he did.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thanks for listening until next time.