

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – August 29, 2020

The Lord in with you.

A few years ago, my wife and I spent New Year's in Rosemary Beach, Florida with our kids and grandkids, where we discovered the Sugar Shack. That has to be the largest candy store in the world. I mean, I've never seen so much candy aisles and aisles of sugar. You cannot imagine how much candy there is, and you should have seen the eyes of my grandkids and Grandpa. And I tell you that because I often feel like a little boy in a candy store when I open up God's word is there is so much here. And that means for me that the Christian life is becoming new almost every day.

There was so much more than I imagined. And today, I wanna share with you a brief passage from the Word of God that is so rich and wonderful that I just keep coming back to these verses again and again, here they are, Colossians 3, verses 3 and 4, in which the apostle Paul is writing from a Roman prison cell to a little house church in far off Asia Minor, Paul writes, for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed and you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Notice first, Paul says, You have died. That means that when Jesus died on the cross, you died there with him, which means that all of your sins were paid for, all of your sins were forgiven. At the cross, Jesus cried out. It is finished. So that as far as God is concerned, every sin that you and I have ever committed past, present, future, Jesus dealt with at the cross. You have died.

But there's more here. You have died and your life is hidden with Christ, in God. Hidden. I think there's two things here in that word hidden, first there is the sense of security, you are like treasure, hidden away with Christ, for safe keeping your life, your eternal life is safety deposited with Christ as you are hidden with him. But I think hidden with Christ also has the idea of hidden with the idea of secrecy, that that is the glory of Christ, that is now hidden from the world, your glory with Christ is also hidden from the world. The world doesn't get it. Sadly, the world does not understand your new life in Jesus. And I think there's probably also a sense in which the glory of being a Christian is also hidden from us. We don't yet experience all the glory that it means. Then Paul adds hidden with Christ in God, because we are hidden with Christ, that means that we are hidden within, in the God the Father, as you by faith are united with Christ, he unites you with the father.

Now Paul develops his thought further as he says, When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in the glory. Now, if you've thought about this before, that Christ is your life, we don't hear a lot of sermons about it, but Christ is your life, and this is a very important and exciting truth for Paul. For instance, in Philippians 1 verse 21, Paul says, For me to live is Christ. Just let that sink in for a moment. For me to live is Christ. In Galatians 2:20, Paul says, it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.

That is a whole new and exciting way of looking at life, the Jesus lived the perfect life, you don't have to live the perfect life, don't sweat it, as you share life with Jesus, His perfect obedience, His righteousness, His victory is glory, it's all yours because Christ is your life... And I really encourage you to think about that every day. That Jesus is literally involved in all of your daily life, it's good to remind yourself of that when you're needing power, wisdom, patience. Christ is the the your life.

Water from Rock

You see, Christ isn't just your inspiration for life, he's in just a good example for life, he's in just someone to follow Christ is... He is your life. I was a Christian for many years, and this didn't sink in.

Paul explains further, he says, When Christ who is your life is revealed and you also will be revealed with him in glory, because Christ is your life. When one day, Christ appears to the world in all of His glory, you also will be revealed with him in glory.

I wanna make one more go at these two verses, and I wanna read them from The Message translation, your old life is dead. Your new life, which is your real life, even though invisible to spectators is with Christ in God, He is your life. When Christ, your real life remember, when Christ shows up again on this earth, you'll show up too the real you, the glorious you.

In light of all of this, I pray asking the Heavenly Father that with our feet planted firmly on love, that we will be able to take in the extravagant dimensions of God's love for us, reach out and experience the breath-tested sling, plumb the depths. Rise to the heights, live full lives. Full of the fullness of Christ in us.

I am Tim Smith a fellow traveler on the pilgrim way.

Thanks for listening. Until next time.

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