



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – June 15, 2021

The Lord be with you.

Good ole Yogi Berra said, that If you don't know where you're going. You might not get there. Well, I wonder today, or you're going... Where you're going in life. Do you know what kind of person you want to be? That that is a good question to think about. And counselors say that would be good to every day to visualize... To think about the kind of person you want to be. Well, as always, I like for scripture to be our guide, especially in thinking about such a big question as who we want to be, and so I'm looking today at Galatians Chapter 4:19, where Paul... I think he speaks to this question. Paul writes. My little children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you.

Now, here Paul is writing to the Galatians, Christians very much concerned about their lack of spiritual growth, they are going backwards rather than forwards, and their problem is legalism, they are adding the Law of Moses, adding do's and don'ts adding rules, adding spiritual practices. Adding all of that on to simple faith in Christ, and so Paul says to his spiritual children that it is as if he were in the pain of childbirth, trying to birth them again to faith in Christ. Now, apologies to you moms who might be thinking, Hey, what does Paul know about the pain of childbirth? But Paul does want us to know that He is laboring for the Galatians Christians until Christ is formed in you. Okay, now Paul goes from labor and delivery and its pain, he goes from that to a baby being formed in the mother's womb. As Paul says that he is laboring until Christ is formed in you.

The Greek word translated formed is more is morphoo. And it's where we get our word morph from. And morphoo was a Greek medical term for the growth, the development, the morphing, if you will, of a baby in the mother's womb. And Here are Paul is saying that the purpose of ministry is that Christ might be formed in the lives of believers. The people become more and more like Jesus. That like a baby grows and develops in the mother's womb. So Paul wants the life of Jesus to grow in us, that we become more Christ like. As I think today, about life and about the kind of person I really want to be, I want to be like Jesus. But you know, only Jesus can make your or me to be like Jesus, rule keeping can't make us like Jesus. I've tried legalism. It doesn't work. I mean, observing spiritual practices can't make us like Jesus. The only way we become more and more like Jesus is to focus our lives on Jesus who lives in us. I love what the Apostle Paul says to the Galatians Christians, back in Chapter 2, verse 20, I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. So if Christ lives in the believer, then Christ is well able to make that believer more and more like him, and you know Jesus really does live in you as a believer, wanting to live His life through you. And so Paul goes on to say here in this Galatians 2:20, 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.



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You see the Christian life is not about us. It is about Jesus, it's about Jesus who lives powerfully in us. Okay, let's go back for a moment to the Greek word morphoo that is used in the phrase Christ formed in you. Morphoo is in the passive form of the verb and the pay form of the verb means that the forming of Christ in us is not something we do, but it is something that Christ does to us as we yield our lives more and more to him, and so it's about Christ and not me, not me trying to keep the law, not me trying to be a good person, it is about faith in Jesus, faith in Jesus, not just for eternity, but faith in Jesus, for today. Faith in Jesus for all the stuff I've worried about. Faith in Jesus for how I might want to serve Him. It's just what the Apostle Paul says, And the life I live, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me. And so, I add to that. So, I want to give my life for him.

A few days ago, my wife Rita and I spend just a little bit of time with a man who really wasn't very long, it was just a few moments, but you know, as we left that man, I said to Rita, that man radiates Christ. How does that happen? Well, that man has lived a life, focused on the Christ who lives in him, and the life of Christ in Him is more and being formed in him. And spending time with that man the other day it really makes me want to be like Jesus. I begin today with one of life's most important questions. What kind of person do you want to be? My prayer for you is that you will want to be like Jesus, and if you really want to be like Jesus, Jesus, He will get you there. And one day scripture says that Jesus will even morph your body, he will transform your body into a glorious resurrection body, just like his...

So, I close the day with those words of John the Baptist about Jesus making his word to my prayer... Jesus must increase. I must decrease.

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