

TAKING CHRIST'S SACRIFICE PERSONALLY

By Keith Greer

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3: 16) This is a very familiar passage of scripture. Many use it to teach the "**faith only**" doctrine. Our purpose is to look at another truth from this passage.

Sometimes man cannot see himself in the words of "**whoever**" in this text. With billions and billions of people in the world, "I" seems very unimportant. How can you help one to see that the death of Christ on the cross is personal? Must man take this personally? YES!

" Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed."(1 Peter 2:23,24) Who is "our" in this passage? Let us answer by asking another question. Who is guilty of sin?

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," (Romans 3:23)

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." (1 John 1:8) According to Paul and John, who wrote by inspiration, all of us are guilty of sin! Therefore, he died for all. This includes me.

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear." (Isaiah 59:1,2) My sins have separated me from God. Who is going to pay this "debt" which I owe?

"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:6-8)

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." (Ephesians 1: 7)

"Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption... how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? "(Hebrews 9:12, 14)

Can you see yourself yet? Does the sacrifice and death of our Lord now take on another dimension? Maybe you're still in with the billions, understanding He died for all, which includes me, but finding difficulty in making the "personal" application. I believe the apostle Paul may be able to help us.

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. " (Galatians 2:20)

Each of us have been crucified with Christ... Christ lives in ME ... He loved ME and gave Himself for ME. Now can you clearly see that His great sacrifice was for you? Paul made the personal application and so should every person in the world.

Why? What type of life will I live if I understand that when he died, He died for me? How humble and thankful does it make you feel? All of the people who live and have lived in the world (and those yet to come), Christ died for ME.

Yes, those who cried to Pilate to hang Him on that tree, spat on Him, reviled Him, mocked Him and hurl insults at Him – He died for all of them that day. Still, it is because I sin and choose to go my own sinful way that He had to suffer that terrible death on the cross. Let that sink in. ***