

FUTURES

A STUDY IN WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THE FUTURE
AND WHY IT MATTERS IN YOUR LIFE TODAY.

ACTS 20:17-38 & GALATIANS 2:20

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX 1032

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

GETTING READY FOR THE BIG DAY

The "Who, What, When Where and Why" of the Future Teachings of the Bible.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Last Days, Eschatology, Bible Prophecy, Current Events

If I were to bundle you up today, so you're ready to take on
this fierce Southern California wintery day - I'd make sure
you put on certain things...

The Lord has given us His instructions for the season,

Hebrews 12:14

Pursue peace with all people, and *holiness*,
without which no one will see the Lord:

1 Peter 1:15-16

As He who called you is holy, *you also be holy* in all your conduct,
16 because it is written, "*Be holy, for I am holy.*"

John 14:15

"If you love Me, *keep My commandments.*

God never calls us to do something or be something that
He hasn't already provided the means.

When the apostle Paul bid farewell

to the regional church leaders of Asia Minor, He left nothing unspoken.

Paul, bundle them up with his parting words of encouragement!

Acts 20:17-38

From Miletus (Soke) Paul sent to Ephesus (Izmir) and called for the elders of the church. 18 And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, 19 serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; 20 how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, 21 testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, (a) **repentance toward God and (b) faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.** 22 And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. 24 But **none of these things move me**; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that **I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.** :25 "And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. 26 **Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men.** 27 **For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.** 28 **Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.** 29 For I know this, (the forecast) that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. :32 So now, brethren, **I commend you to God and to the word of His grace,** which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33 I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel... :36 And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. 37 Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, 38 sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more (in this world). And they accompanied him to the ship.

It's a touching scene no doubt.

It's amazing to me that there can exist a family-relationship that transcends all other relationships on earth. I am talking about a Real Church Family.

It is the fellowship of God's people – It is a

transcendent experience. It's beautiful. It's rough. It's comforting. It's Messy. It's exciting. It's powerful, It's challenging... **It's always alive!**

-If I were to be getting you ready to go outside I would

certainly want to know (1) what the weather's going to be like, (2) I want to know what you're going to be doing, (3) I wanna I know who it is that you're going to be hanging out with, and (4) I want to make sure that you know how to get home. Based on what I know about you and the environment where you're going to be encountering, I would (5) give you all instructions you will need for the big day.

Perhaps there is no one single verse in the Bible

That is more doctrinally pregnant with the key to the Christian life than this;

Galatians 2:20

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.

GETTING READY FOR THE BIG DAY

1.) Put on this truth – it's time I die

vs.20a

Galatians 2:20a

"I have **been crucified with** Christ;

There is no religion on earth, there has never been a faith group that can boast and proclaim what we are honored - to be able to shout!

"I Have Been!"

(this is the ultimate declaration of change and transformation)
and what's more – is that it speaks to an exact moment of time

(#1)

This is the positional declaration of the believer.
It is not by the believer but of the believer. This is what God did.

"I have been **crucifi(ed)**

Paul Willingly Declares This to Be his Position in Life.

To say that you were crucified in the 1st century was to say that you have been electrocuted in the 21st

**No one walked away from crucifixion,
and no one walks away from the electric chair today.**

Crucified grk: sus'tau'roo; to nail together or with another, to nail with something or someone.

This means that crucifixion was never a solo event.

A man was crucified *with his crimes nailed or posted over his head*, crimes he had committed against the Roman Empire.

There was another way to get yourself crucified in the Empire –
that was to be *accused, arrested and tried for being a Christian*. If there was enough evidence against (or in favor of) you would become a martyr and a martyr was crucified *for being like Jesus Christ* and his association of *having been with Jesus Christ*.

No one is crucified just for crucifixion sake.
Someone is crucified because they are nailed to a purpose, nailed to a reason. In our case it is because of our association with Jesus Christ.
But in His case it is because of His association with us.

What's The Result of This Truth, How does it affect me personally?

There is a part of me that still walks the earth. That leftover of what was once "Jack" will pop up at times. In this world, the old Jack is still gasping for air.

Galatians 5:24

And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Truth be told, - we live in our flesh, this human body, but we do not live after the flesh with its demands and appetites.

Colossians 2:14

Having **wiped out the handwriting of requirements** that was against us, (sinlog in heaven) which was contrary to us. And He **has taken it** out of the way, (like a veil pulled open) having **nailed it** to the cross.

wiped out grk: **exaleipho**; *to erase, obliterate, remove, to cancel.*
Hash-tag this – **Jesus Canceled My Sin**

So according to God;

On the day, the hour, the moment Jesus died,
in that second, all of the sins of Jack Hibbs were paid for.

But at that moment of His death, salvation, forgiveness, new life was held in reserve for me - - until the day that I placed my faith in what He did.

GETTING READY FOR THE BIG DAY

2.) Put on this truth – It's the end of me vs.20b

Galatians 2:20b

it is **no longer** I who live,

When in the Old Testament, the Priesthood was ordained to perform a task or ministry between God and the people - - they first had to be **prepared themselves**. They had to become "**sanctified**" and "**anointed**" before they could appear before God.

They had to have fresh new robes.

They had to be **bathed** and **washed** from earthly dust & sweat.
They had to have **the blood** of a sacrificial animal **applied** to them.

The priest was to walk into the holy of holies fully prepared to meet with God.
That priest then represented the sins of the people before God.
That priest was acting out a prophetic plan, **He was mimicking the moment of ultimate and total redemption.**

(#2)

This is the **practical** declaration of the believer.

It's no longer I (not me) who live

Romans 6:6

Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.

This truth means that; our new lives are now being animated by the indwelling presence of the Spirit of God in our lives.

Ezekiel 36:27

I will put My Spirit within you and **cause** (asah – accomplish, administer, to carve upon, to bestow, to celebrate) **you** to walk in **My** statutes, and **you** will keep **My** judgments and do them.

* The spiritual implication of this is profound.

* The practicality of this is liberating.

Philippians 2:12b-13

Work out your own salvation (apply what He has provided) with fear and trembling; **13** for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

GETTING READY FOR THE BIG DAY

3.) Put on this truth – It's time I live vs.20c

Galatians 2:20c
but **Christ lives in** me;

I believe it's the Old King James Version that says...

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; **yet not I,** “

“the power and effect of both Jesus Christ's life, death and

resurrection now lives in me.”

Romans 8:11

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Philippians 3:10

that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

John 1:1-2, 12-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God, 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. :14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Notice with me the practical application.

Jesus Christ, the Word of God became a human, in body, soul and spirit – His physical manifestation, incarnation exhibited, put on display the will of God.

Because Jesus Christ, the Word of God now lives in us,
we become in body, soul and spirit the physical manifestation, the incarnation of His word, exhibited, put on display to the world around us.

GETTING READY FOR THE BIG DAY

4.) Put on this truth – It’s the beginning of me vs.20b

Galatians 2:20d

and the (new) **life** which I **now live** in the **flesh**
I **live by faith** in the Son of God,

I now **“assume”** His identity as it were.

Colossians 1:26

The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. **27** To them God willed to make known **what are** the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles:
which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

I cannot stress this enough, this portion of verse 20 assumes the most important point of all
– “and the life which I now live.”
Everything about this is based on a presupposition.
You Have New Life

Romans 13:14

But **put on** (sink into a garment, be enveloped) the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Ephesians 2:4-6

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

GETTING READY FOR THE BIG DAY

5.) Put on this truth – It's about time vs.20e

Galatians 2:20e

Who **loved me** and **gave Himself** for me.

This is the very essence, the spirit of sacrificial love. To be delighted to love and to be animated by love to the point of giving yourself away totally, complete, fully!

Let's remember what real love really is.

Real, factual, practical love is an ongoing decision based upon the act of the human will to love another apart from what you may or may not get in return.

The "Act of Love" is the Christian's Reality

1 John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. **8** He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1 John 4:9-11

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. **10** In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

SO Getting Ready For The Big Day

End of Study