

Galatians 2:20

"The Greatest Death, The Greatest Life"

Intro: Woods Story

- I) **A Greater Love:** "who loved me and gave himself for me" Galatians 2:20c (start from the bottom)
 - A) when I approach my relationship to Christ, it's not something I have to do for him, it is something that he has already done for me
 - B) The reason why he gave himself for me is because he loved me. Notice the text doesn't say, because I was the best, brightest, or bulkiest.
 - C) I didn't present my resume to Christ and based upon this he accepted me
 - 1) Illustration of adoption agency
 - D) What does it mean for Christ to give himself for me.
 - 1) It means that he gave himself in place of me. In place of what: the scripture is very clear that because of our sin (thought word or deed) we deserved death. Christ gave himself for me
 - 2) Illustration of Vernon hills days and brother stepping in front of the knife
- II) **A Greater Faith:** Because of all of this I live by faith. Notice that faith always has an object. Not just faith, but faith in! The son of God. Galatians 2:20b
 - A) Faith that since he died for me because of my sins, he will continue to love me through my sin
 - B) Faith that I am not on a performance system with Christ. He loves because he loves me. Not because of what I do
 - C) Faith that because of Christ I now have a relationship with the father and he with me.
- III) **A Greater Life:** Now, Paul can say, I have been crucified with Christ and it is he who lives through me. Galatians 2:20a
 - A) Let's talk about the apostle Paul's life. He was the successful of the successful. His writings, his life, his success and he places all those things next to Christ and he says I would still rather have him live than me. This is why he will say later, I count it all rubbish for the sake of knowing Christ
 - B) This is wanting what is better. This is trading up. D Rose for Lebron James. The white sox for the Cubs. R&b for country music.
 - C) I have been crucified with Christ. Christ's crucifixion was not a sacrifice; it was a death. Christ died for us
 - 1) He didn't just become inconvenienced for us
 - 2) So when Paul says I have been crucified with Christ, he is saying that the old life is dead
 - (a) The life before Christ
 - (b) The life before he loved what is good
 - (c) The life before he cared for people
 - 3) He now has a new identity. One that is as eternal as Christ.
 - (a) Place your identity in something that won't change
 - (b) Illustration of placing my identity in different changing things growing up; but all failed me
 - 4) Christ won't fail you

IV) **Conclusion:** Tie in the woods story...GREATER