

March 24, 2010

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:11-20

We really can't separate the two things: that Jesus died for our salvation AND that Jesus' death changes our life.

The New Testament doesn't let us simply be objective observers of Jesus' death on Good Friday. We aren't allowed to hear the story, say "that's nice," and go on with our lives. We also aren't allowed to hear the story, say "thank you for helping me go to heaven" and go on with our lives as though nothing has changed.

But we try, don't we.

The truth is that the death (and resurrection) of Jesus the Christ does not leave us unchanged. We may choose to resist God's grace. We may try to resist God's grace, but when we discover that Jesus "died for all" -- believing that "all" includes us -- we no longer live for ourselves, but for Christ. This is what God has done and is doing!

So think about this: if God is doing something new in the world through the cross of Christ, are you helping or hurting? If God is doing something new in **you** through the cross of Christ, are you helping or hurting? The answer may seem obvious: "Of course I am helping the work of Christ in my life and in the world." But many times our efforts to do God's work gets in the way of what God is doing. We decide what God wants us to be, and we remain firmly in control of our lives. We try so hard to mold the world, and others, into the image of God's Kingdom, remaining firmly in control of our lives (and the lives of others) and leaving little room for God to transform us.

Give some thought today to the possibility that your desire to do good for God is getting in the way of what God is doing in your life and in the world. Does your effort to be faithful close you off from God's presence? Are you so busy doing God's work that you have no time for God? Or do you work so hard for God because you're afraid God isn't doing anything?

Take time for yourself today. Relax into a time of prayer and be open to what God's is doing. Christ died for you and God is already at work transforming your life. Let God be God today.

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