



THE LIFE YOU NOW LIVE
“I Live in the World” Galatians 6:14

No. 4169

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Writing to the Galatians, Paul explained that he had “died to the law.” (2:19) He had been “crucified with Christ.” (2:20) He had “crucified the sinful nature.” (5:24) In addition he told them that through the cross “the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.” (6:14) These startling statements deserve our attention.

I. The Context of Paul's Statement About the World in Which He Lives.

- A. He is dealing with a major controversy.
 - 1. The gospel he preaches is being diminished by legalists and nomists.
 - 2. The opponents of the gospel are confusing the believers.
 - 3. The motives and actions of these people are questionable to say the least.
 - a. They are inconsistent; they don't practice what they preach. v. 13
 - b. They are more concerned about outward form than inner reality. v. 12
 - c. They are afraid of persecution related to the message of the cross. v. 12
 - d. The message of the cross has become an offense to them. 5:11
- B. He is drawing a line in the sand.
 - 1. He points out the differences between himself and his opponents.
 - a. Unlike them, he is not afraid of the offense of the cross.
 - b. Unlike them, he is not boasting about external matters.
 - 2. He insists that his only boast is in “the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - a. “Cross” stands for the substitutionary, atoning death of Jesus.
 - b. This has become more important to him than anything else!
 - c. Among other things, it has led to a totally new attitude to the “world.”

II. The Convictions Paul Holds About the World in Which He Lives.

- A. What he means by his use of “world.”
 - 1. The sum of all created being. Colossians 1:16; 1 Corinthians 7:31
 - 2. The abode of humanity; the theatre of human history. 1 Corinthians 1:20-28
 - a. That which is inhabited.
 - b. The inhabitants.
 - c. Fallen humanity.
 - 3. Humankind estranged from the Creator and Savior. Galatians 3:22; 4:3
 - a. Apathetic.
 - b. Hostile.
 - c. Independent.
- B. What he experiences though the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 1. The world crucified to him has lost its allure and hold.
 - 2. He is crucified to the world so its attitudes and objectives no longer control.

III. The Consequences for Us in the World in Which We Live.

- A. What does “do not love the world” mean? 1 John 2:15-17; 2 Timothy 4:10
- B. How do we balance “left in,” “not of,” “sent to” the world? John 17:6-26
- C. What about “in the world you will have trouble...in me you may have peace”?

Point to Ponder: What does “this world is not my home” mean practically to me?