

# Sunday, April 8, 2018 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

## Sermon: Dying to Live

Read Galatians 2:15-21



*Dying to Live*

Last week we celebrated Easter. The Resurrection of Jesus can make a difference in our lives every day. If we join with Jesus in the crucifixion we can also join with Him in the Resurrection.



Paul says that he has been crucified with Christ. That does not mean he was put on a cross like Jesus. It is that he has died to his old self. The sinful part of his life, what he calls in Romans the flesh, has been killed. We can crucify our old self. We put it to death. It does not die by accident. It has to be killed. We have to decide to kill our sins. This is a continual process. Our sins keep trying to come back from the dead.



When we have killed our old self, the new is able to live. The new creation that we are promised when we are in Christ can truly show in our lives. We model what happened with Jesus. We put our old selves to death so that we can be resurrected in the image of Christ.



We live a life of faith. Faith is the key to our living the life of a disciple. We live following what Jesus tells us to do. It is not easy. It means loving like Jesus loves. Faith is not knowing what Jesus says and thinking that they are true. Faith is living our lives following what Jesus says to do.



A life of faith is a life of power. It is not easy to live by faith, but as we move in faith we receive power from the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised we would receive power when we are filled with the Holy Spirit. Living by faith allows the Holy Spirit to fill us and use us. We cannot expect power if we are not going to do anything. We do not need power to just sit. We need power as we follow Christ.



A life of faith is a life of peace. When we are living by faith we know that Jesus is in charge. We know that just as Jesus conquered death on Easter, He can defeat anything else. If Jesus shows us that we do not have to be afraid of death then what is there that we should fear. Things will not always go the way we want. We are not insured against heartbreak, but we know that Jesus will win in the end.



A life of faith is a life of joy. Because we have peace we can have joy in our lives. Remember that joy is more than being happy. Joy means that even when we are going through difficult times we can know everything will be all right and so we can enjoy our lives. Joy goes along with peace. When we have difficult times, God will help us. We can live our lives knowing God is with us.