



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

September 2018

I am crucified with Christ

And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the thieves, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. ~ Luke 23:33

"I am crucified with Christ." What does that really mean? It has become so 'biblically poetic' that the depth and weight of what those words declare, too often float by our ear without our comprehension.

When one is "crucified with Christ" it is massively earth-shifting in the life of that Christian, affecting not only them, but all who knew them before they were "crucified with Christ".

Being crucified with Christ is a complete and total rejection of the ways of this world. It is the 'execution', the death of the person I was before I was baptized into Christ, confessing "I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God!". And it is the commitment to 'rise from the dead' to be as much like Christ as my heart, mind, soul, and strength can make me.

Apostle Paul wrote to the Galatians explaining this, saying, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

~ Galatians 2:20

How odd! The cursed thing that brought such an excruciating end, God has used for an exhilarating beginning!

Two men crucified with Christ

There were two sinners crucified with Christ. Depending on your version of the Bible, they are referred to as *malefactors, evildoers, robbers, criminals, thieves*. By whatever description, they were men like you and me—men in need of grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

Both men had equal opportunity to lay hold on eternal life and be carried up into Paradise. Their

paths were set by their hearts and by the words that proceeded out of their hearts.

Their conversation—heard around the world

"One of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, 'If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.'

"But the other answering rebuked him, saying, 'Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.'

"And he said unto Jesus, 'Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.'

"And Jesus said unto him, 'Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.'"

~ Luke 23:39-43



How could two men, with spikes nailed through their hands and feet, fastening their bodies to a tree, then lifted up to hang by their flesh, have such a majestic and sublime conversation regarding their departure from this world? To this day, all the world continues to quote these words verbatim and takes enormous comfort in them.

Which 'Thief' am I?

The one thief had his desires set in this world. Salvation to him was simply getting down from his cross to continue his life on earth.

But the other thief had his desire set on the next world, on the promises of God. He had the knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and of His

kingdom to come—and *believed it*. The cross to this thief was a door out of this world. He humbly asked the Lord not to save him, but rather, trusting in His grace, to simply remember him.

Which thief am I? I can determine that by simply and honestly looking inside my heart and see what my desires really are. I need to acknowledge if my “*affections are set on things above*” or if they are *set on things in the earth*” (Colossians 3:1).

“Calling now to thee” 🎵

The New Testament is continually calling us away from this temporary world, saying things like, “*Love not the world, neither things in the world*”, explaining that if our head is in the world, our heart cannot possibly be with God. (1 John 2:15).

Can we sincerely pull our heads out of the earth and set our eyes on Heaven? Yes! Absolutely we can. That’s called C-O-N-V-E-R-T-E-D!

David declared that “*the Word of God is perfect, converting the soul*”. The Apostle tells us “*that faith comes by hearing the Word of God.*”

Paul explained to the Philippians that he felt a need to remain in this world for their soul’s sake, but he had a greater “*desire to depart, and to be with Christ*”, which he declared “*is far better*” than staying here.

Paul was *converted* to eternal life! All men of true faith “*confess that they are strangers and pilgrims in the earth.*” The way I live and speak can “*declare plainly that I seek a better country*” desiring a home in Heaven.

I am called to walk an *apostolic* path in which my life can show how “*the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.*” (Galatians 6:14)

“At the Cross” in Baptism

All of us have been crucified with Christ. We have been “*baptized into his death*” and like the thief on the cross, “*our old man is crucified WITH HIM.*”

We were “*buried WITH HIM by baptism into death*” and “*IF we have been planted [baptized] together in the likeness of his death, [THEN] we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection*”

(Romans 6:3-6).

Baptism in the Lord’s Church is *the door into salvation*. I renounced worldly desires and entered the Kingdom of God through the waters of baptism. The 3,000 souls in Acts 2 were baptized and entered into the Kingdom of God. It was THE LORD that gave them entrance, adding them to the Church “*daily such as should be saved.*”

All is accomplished in the mind

Christianity is a work within my spirit, in my heart. My transformation takes place in my mind. As the Apostle said, “*Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of YOUR MIND.*”

As one crucified with Christ, I will take a daily meditation from the thief who was also crucified with Him. And make his words mine, and ask the Lord to remember me, and grant that I may also enter into His Kingdom.



Chariton

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. (no evening services)

Location: 15th & Roland, Chariton, Iowa

For information call: Albert Schreck (641) 535-2381 or Brian Schreck (641) 535-2931

- Evelyn Bennett has been having problems with her legs making walking difficult.
- Visitors this month were C.J. Little, Ethan Schreck, Ali Chandiramani and Brett, Chantelle and Aquila Jackson.

September Birthdays

★ 29 Carol Smead

September Anniversaries

★ 6 Brian & Tammy Schreck

Dean Avenue

Meeting times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Last Sunday of the month: A social after morning services meeting back at 1 pm instead of 6 pm.
Location: 2907 Dean Ave., Des Moines, Iowa / P.O. Box 57398, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327
For information call: John McNeece (515) 263-9428

- Frances Hawthorne attended a family reunion in Missouri.
- John McNeece had his second cataract surgery, and his vision has improved already.
- Travis Head had a rust speck in his eye at work which was very painful and was removed at the ER.
- Bill McNeece had a lot of pain and muscle cramping after his hip replacement surgery, but he is doing much better and is now walking with only a cane.
- Earl Allen had a procedure to remove cancer from his bladder. This is the third time he has

had to do this. This time the cancer has spread into the muscle. He will meet with his doctor to discuss further treatment.

- **Visitors:** Tom Warren, Bill, Bryan and Tally Charlier, Preston and Paxon Boozell, Fabian and Sara Puente, Piper Thatcher, Ralph and Laura Ford

September Birthdays

- ★ None

September Anniversaries

- ★ 02 Greg & Linda Head
- ★ 04 Chad & Amy Prenosil

Fairview

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Location: 1001 S. 22nd St, Clarinda, Iowa 51632
For information call: Richard Negley (712)542-3728 or Marvin Negley (712)542-2792

- Visitors this month were Linda Barnes from Springfield, MO coming specially to see her Mother Elsie Negley who is a resident at Westridge nursing home.
- Jacob Bos from Oklahoma City and Caleb Bos from Sioux City, IA, coming especially to help their sister & brother-in-law Josh & Jessica Goazalez move.
- Clint Driftmier & Kylar of Norwalk, IA are spending the w/e with his parents and siblings coming specially to celebrate Isaac Schmidt's birthday.

- Neil & Becky McCoy celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on a river cruise in Europe.
- We enjoyed having John & Donna Lee with us August 26th - John spoke Sunday morning & after a basket dinner we had a topic study in the afternoon.

September Birthdays

- ★ Tammie Driftmier 24

September Anniversaries

- None

Martensdale

Meeting Times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
1st & 3rd Sundays of the month: Basket dinner after morning service meeting back at 1 pm instead of 6 pm.
Location: 10985 44th Lane, Prole, Iowa (1.5 miles east of Martensdale, IA on Hwy. 92)
For information call: Duane Proudfit (515) 961-4470 or Mike Penick (515) 681-0279

- Ayden Twaddell and Madison Hermon were married in a beautiful ceremony on Friday night August 3. They are currently living in Indianola. Maddy is working for the Martensdale-St. Mary's school district and Ayden is working for Mercy hospital as an anesthesiologists' assistant.
 - Several people were in the area for the wedding and we were blessed to have them worship with us. They were
 - Doug, Jill and Alijah Twaddell;
 - Molly Lederer; Riley Ingle; Gavin Burkman;
 - Patience Salter; Kayley Zimmerman;
 - Randy and Laura Teghtmeyer and Laura's mother; Regan Klug;
 - Carrie, Cameron and Jackson Bringham;
 - Keith and Leta Fenton;
 - Bethany Ford and Jordan Bown.
 - Other visitors this month have been Nora Lee, Dave and Joyce Ingle; Stephanie Stevens and her children; Mike and Shawna Divis; and Al and Jeanette Schreck.
 - Several of us spent an evening at the Penick's farm where a shower was held for Tanner George and Tiffany Parker. Their parents Mike and Tammy George and Tom and Paula Parker worshipped with us the following morning.
- Bill and Wendy Hounsom's son and daughter-in-law, Drew and Anna Smith, have moved to Iowa from Colorado and are living with Bill and Wendy while they look for jobs.
 - Tom and Dianne Collier traveled to Pennsylvania to visit Dianne's brothers whom she hasn't seen for over 20 years. Her sister was also able to join them.
 - Amelia Rodgers is spending several weeks with Rodney and Alena Ingle and is worshipping with us while she's here.
 - The pins they put in Fred Bown's femur bone appear to have broken. They will x-ray again on August 31 and decide what the next course of action will be. Please continue to keep him and Marlene in your prayers.

September Birthdays

- ★ September 5 – Pam Deckler
- ★ September 7 -- Dianne Collier
- ★ September 9 – Brenda Bown
- ★ September 17 – Zach Wheeler
- ★ September 28 – Dick Bown

September Birthdays

- ★ September 24 – Mike & Tracy Penick

Pleasant Hill

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

Every 3rd Sunday: Potluck with afternoon service

Location: 5091 E. University, Pleasant Hill, Iowa

Website: pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org

For information call: Bob Flack (515) 262-7329, Lowell Hermon (515) 989-0727, Mike Warner (515) 967-4529

- Mark and Suzie McClurg, Brian McClurg and daughter Jill were back to help there mother and grandmother Marilyn celebrate her 90th birthday.
- Kathy King had some laser work on her eye.
- Wanda Burkman has been having back pain.
- Dan and Amy Pritchard and family were in Fort Dodge visiting with Dan’s family.
- Megan Stevens was home visiting for a weekend.
- It was good to Bud and Mary Alice Fillman back at church after a lengthy illness.
- Eden Brady and Audra Needham were both sick.
- Ethan Schreck, Jordan Bown, Faith Fenton, and Kathleen were visiting while attending the State Fair.
- Steve Wood and daughter were visiting with Miles and Kelsey Wood and family.
- Allison George has been having trouble with her feet. She has received a shot in each foot.
- Miles Wood has had strep and Ellie ear infection.
- Bob and Erica Goltha and daughter were visiting with her parents Keith and Connie Price.
- Tom Brady is in hospital for testing. Other than having a bad heart, kidneys and thyroid, he’s doing well.
- Betty Warren fell, thankful for no broken bones, but very sore. Please continue prayers for her.

- Bruce and Suzanne Harvey were visiting with son Matt and family.
- Marje Turnquist is attending a wedding in Ohio.
- Mike and Shirley Warner’s son, Steve is free from cancerous tumors in his body. He’s entering preventative care every weekday for 5 weeks. Continued prayers are appreciated.
- Nora Lee Ingle has had visitors from California, Knoxville and Missouri. Also she and a friend spent a day in Ames at a tea room and to shop.



“Thanks to all who helped me celebrate my 90th birthday. To those who came to the open house, and sent cards. I appreciated it so much. Thank’s again.”
 ~ Marilyn McClurg.

September Birthdays

- ★ 2 Pam Sorensen
- ★ 3 Kayley Zimmerman
- ★ 13 Niko Felice
- ★ 23 Shea Hermon
- ★ 28 Theresa Ingle

September Anniversaries

- ★ 1 Tim & Tammy Brady
- ★ 3 Alex & Ryane Needham
- ★ 4 Marc & Ginger Hermon
- ★ 10 Larry & Bev Brady
- ★ 12 Mike & Cindy Brady
- ★ 15 Marty & Lisa Williamson
- ★ 16 Scott & Julene Pappan
- ★ 29 Ron & Mary Gearhart
- ★ 29 Steve & Pat Thompson

Vandalia

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m.
Location: 2.5 miles east of Runnells, Iowa on F70, then 1 mile north on 131st St.
Website: vandaliacoc.com
For information call: Greg Ingle (515) 994-2824 or Charles Ingle (515) 966-2537

- We participated in the parade with a float at the Prairie City Days annual festival, and the following week we were again in the parade for the annual Monroe Celebration.
- We share the good news of two baptisms the past month. They were Cameron Burkman, and Kimberly Hall.
- Justin Dowdy has begun a new job with Union Pacific Railroad.
- Derek and Amy Ingle, Brighton and Caleb enjoyed a vacation in and around Florence, KY., where they toured several museums and a highlight being the replica of Noah's Ark.
- Lori Cole joined some of her family and friends on a trip to Cancun. Mexico.
- Tim and Melody Burkman and family spent a week vacationing at Clear Lake.
- Jason and Staci Miller and family visited family in Carrollton, Missouri.
- Justin and Brittney Dowdy and children visited in the Kansas City area.
- Doug and Lisa Fiorentin and Staci Miller and children attended the baby shower for Leah Fiorentin, held in Kansas City.
- Lynnette Dowdy visited Jason and Autumn Dowdy and family in Missouri.
- Jason and Mariha Henle and family spent time in Brooklyn during the time of the tragic death of Jason's cousin, Mollie Tibbetts. Our heartfelt sympathy is with his family.
- Sue Schreck was here visiting her daughter, Leah Fiorentin, and husband Trent.

September Birthdays

- ★ 2 Cassady Cummings
- ★ 8 Charity Klein
- ★ 12 Cameron Burkman
- ★ 12 Cole Dowdy
- ★ 14 Lisa Fiorentin
- ★ 28 Brighton Ingle
- ★ 30 Kiana Klein

September Anniversaries

- ★ 12 Alan & Shonya Klein
- ★ 20 Bob & Tonya Guthrie
- ★ 23 Micah & Briana Heartsill
- ★ 24 Dale & Dorothy VanMaanen