

SAVED: By His Death

John 19:17-30

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. -Galatians 2:20 NIV

I have always loved to watch the Olympics and see the athletes from around the world compete. It is fun to cheer on different countries and hear stories behind how the athletes got to this elite level. After a while of watching a sport you get to understand how it works and can judge how the competitors are doing. Sometimes I start to get critical of athletes that aren't doing too well. "This figure skater isn't keeping tight enough form on her spins. This distance runner should have taken it easier at the beginning so that he had more energy for the final lap. Why isn't he trying harder?" All of these things I say while sitting on my couch because there is no way that I could do them myself. However, sometimes pride makes me think that I know better than someone who is a professional.

Pride also sometimes makes us think that we haven't messed up that bad and we don't actually need saving from our sins. Surely all the good that we have done will make up for the bad things, right?

Paul states in Romans 3:23 that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." All means all, including us. We sin and because of that, we fall short of God's glory and deserve his wrath. Thankfully, God doesn't leave us in that sorry state and Paul continues saying that we "are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." Jesus came to this earth and lived a perfect life, something that we could never do. He then suffered for something that he wasn't guilty of and was put to death because of it. All this he did out of his love for us.

Because of what Jesus did, we now can have life. As it says in the verse above, our sinful selves have been crucified along with Jesus so that now, because we have redeemed, Jesus lives in us and we can show others his love. Giving ourselves up to God's service becomes our response for all that he has done for us.

Let's pray:

Dear Lord, Thank you for going through shame, torture, and a horrible death on the cross. Because of it, you gave us new life. Help us to use this new life to serve you by shining your light to others. Amen.

