

Day 28 ~ ALIVE UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS

*"Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree,
that we, having died unto sins, might live unto righteousness.*

1 Peter 2:24

Here we have in the Epistle of Peter the same lessons that Paul has taught us. First, THE ATONEMENT OF THE CROSS: *"Who His own self bare our sins in His body upon the tree."* And then THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE CROSS: *"That we, having died unto sins, might live unto righteousness."*

In this last expression we have the great thought that a Christian cannot live unto righteousness except as he knows that he has died unto sin. We need the Holy Spirit to make our death to sin in Christ such a reality that we know ourselves to be forever free from its power, and so yield our members to God as instruments of righteousness. The words give us a short summary of the blessed teaching of Romans 6.

Dear Christian, it cost Christ much to bear the cross, and then to yield Himself for it to bear Him. It cost Him much when He cried: *"Now is My soul troubled, and what shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour. But for this cause came I unto this hour."*

Let us not imagine that the fellowship of the cross, of which Peter speaks here, *"that we, having died to sins, might live unto righteousness,"* is easily understood or experienced. It means that the Holy Spirit will teach us what it is to be identified with Christ in His cross. It means that we realize by faith how actually we shared with Christ in His death, and now, as He lives in us, abide in unceasing fellowship with Him, the Crucified One. This costs self-sacrifice; it costs earnest prayer; it costs a whole-hearted surrender to God and His will and the cross of Jesus; it costs abiding in Christ, and unceasing fellowship with Him.

Blessed Lord, make known to us day by day through the Holy Spirit the secret of our life in Thee: *"We in Thee, and Thou in us."* Let Thy Spirit reveal to us that as truly as we died in Thee, Thou now livest in us the life that was crucified and now is glorified in heaven. Let Thy Spirit burn the words deep into our hearts. Having died unto sin, and being forever set free from its dominion, let us know that sin can no more reign over us, or have dominion. Let us in the power of Thy redemption yield ourselves unto God as those who are alive from the dead, ready and prepared for all His will. ♥