Dear Open Door Family,

Let it snow, let it snow... well maybe not this much. I do enjoy having a white Christmas but I would not mind some warmer weather. No matter what is happening with the weather, one thing is sure; we know that God is in control of all of it. And we know that God is good because he has proven it over and over, especially by sending His Son to die for us. The focus of this verse is what the death of Christ does for us. Please take time to meditate on this verse today.

*Galatians 2:20* (NIV) 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* (NLT) I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. So I live my life in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

What does this mean? How have I been crucified with Christ? How should that impact the way I live everyday?

"...LEGALLY, God looks at us as if we had died with Christ. Because our sins died with him, we are no longer condemned (Col. 2:13-15). RELATIONALLY, we have become one with Christ, and his experiences are ours. ...In our daily life, we must regularly crucify sinful desires that keep us from following Christ. And yet the focus of Christianity is not dying, but living. Because we have been crucified with Christ, we have also been raised with him (Rom. 6:5). LEGALLY, we have been *reconciled* with God (2Cor. 5:19) and are free to grow into Christ's likeness (Rom. 8:29). And in our daily life, we have Christ's *resurrection power* as we continue to fight sin (Eph. 1:19,20). We are no longer alone, for Christ lives in us - He is our power for living and our hope for the future (Col. 1:27)." (Life Application Study Bible Notes)

John Piper explains it this way: "The aim of the death of Christ was to take our 'old self' with him into the grave and put an end to it. ...the new self is Christ living in me: ...I take this to mean that the new self is defined by Christ's presence and help at all times." (Fifty Reasons pg. 86)

In other words my life should be impacted on a daily moment by moment basis by an utter and total dependence on the Lord Jesus. It is only through His power and Strength that we can see Christ living in us.

**PRAYER:** Lord, thank you that through Your death I can have a Relationship with you. Please help me to live out my life willing to crucify those desires which do not honor you. Please Lord, Help me to Trust You for Your Help and Power to live this way everyday.

Pastor Mark Kieft