



ROUTE 66 - Pastor Tim Chambers

Key Idea: *The Books of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians, a complete picture of the Christian life.*

Scriptures Used: *Galatians 5:1, 2:20, 3:11, 6:7, 5:24; Ephesians 4:3-6, 4:22, 2:8, 5:1-2;*

Philippians 2:5-7, 1:21, 2:5, 3:13-16, 3:10; Colossians 3:1-2, 3:17, 3:3, 3:10, 2:6-7, 3:5; Romans 6:6, 12:2; 1 Peter 5:7

Share: In Paul's letters to the Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians, we see a complete picture of the Christian life. He addresses different challenges but always centers on the Gospel's power to free, transform, and unite believers. Let's discuss how these letters guide us toward living in the fullness of Christ.

Read: *Galatians 5:1 "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."*

Share: Paul's letter to the Galatians is a declaration of freedom—freedom from the law, sin, and striving for righteousness through works. This is the foundation of our faith.

Discuss:

- 1) *What does living as those who are free look like?*
- 2) *How do we experience freedom in Christ today, avoiding the pitfalls of legalism or self-reliance?*

Read: *Ephesians 4:3-6 – "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."*

Share: In Ephesians, Paul focuses on unity within the Church. As members of one body, we are called to maintain unity in Christ through love, humility, and peace.

Discuss:

- 1) *How do you see us fostering unity within our church and community through the acts of love, humility and peace?*
- 2) *What steps can we take to maintain this unity in a divided world?*

Read: Philippians 2:5-7 *"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God... made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant."*

Share: Philippians shows us that transformation is central to the Christian life. Paul calls believers to take on the mindset of Christ, marked by humility and service.

Discuss:

- 1) How have you experienced Jesus shaping your heart?
- 2) Interestingly these verses instruct us to have the same mindset as Christ Jesus, not behavior, what do you think this teaches us about transformation?

Read: Colossians 3:1-2 *"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is... Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."*

Share: In Colossians, Paul encourages perseverance by focusing on Christ as our all-sufficient Savior. We are reminded to keep our eyes on eternal things and not be swayed by worldly distractions.

Discuss:

- 1) What are some practical ways we can keep our focus on Christ?
- 2) What are some of the temporary things that distract us and impact our perseverance?

Share: Each letter gives us a deeper understanding of what it means to live out our faith daily. But together they are a completed picture... Probably no better stated than in this next verse...

Read: Colossians 3:17 *"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*

Discuss:

- 1) How have you lived out your faith recently in word or deed?
- 2) When you hear the phrase "crucified with Christ" what words comes to mind?

Here are some scriptures that explain what it means to be "crucified with Christ" yet live for Him:

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

Read: Ephesians 4:22: "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires."

Read: Colossians 3:3: "For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God."

Read: Romans 6:6 "For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin."

Read: Philippians 1:21: "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."

Read: Colossians 3:10: "And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator."

Here are seven practical ways to live a crucified life....(ask questions from these as you think of them. Examples...How do we do this? What does this look like in your life? Etc.)

1. Put Others First - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition... but in humility value others above yourselves" (Philippians 2:3).

2. Choosing God's Way Over the World's Way - "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2).

3. Letting Go of Your Old Habits - "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature" (Colossians 3:5).

4. Living Out Your Faith - "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24).

5. Sacrificing Your Comfort - "We choose to share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death" (Philippians 3:10).

6. Trusting God Instead of Worrying - "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

7. Living with a Purpose - *"Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Colossians 3:17).*

Closing Remarks: Being "crucified with Christ" in today's world isn't about a one-time decision; it's about daily choosing to let Jesus guide your life. It's about living in a way that looks different—where your love for Him shows up in how you treat others, make decisions, and trust God. It's a life of love, sacrifice, and purpose, where Christ lives through you.

Upcoming Events:

- **Fresh Start Harvest Festival on October 27th 4 to 6 pm**
 - Please sign up to volunteer on the Church Center App. Encourage your LOOP to participate together.
 - Pray for this event and invite someone.
- **One Day to Feed the World Offering - Sunday, November 10th**
 - Visit FreshStart.Church to learn more and even give to the offering.
 - The idea is to give one day's wages that will be given to Convoy of Hope to help feed those that are hungry.
 - Talk about this with your LOOP and use it as a way to teach them that offerings like this are above and beyond your tithe. They are opportunities to be generous and give more than the tithe.