

Crucified, Dead and Buried

by Randy Nusbaum

In the Roman era the punishment for those who committed murder was very severe: The Romans would take the body of the victim and tie him back to back with the one who did the killing instead of burying it. The result of this would be that the dead body would become corrupt and begin to decay. This action would act just like a cancer, for the dead body would begin to eat away the living body. Though the body had been put to death it was still able to corrupt and destroy the living. One solution to this problem is to put away or bury the dead man.

Let's relate this to our old man as seen in the Scripture. The scriptures emphatically state that our old man is crucified. "Knowing this that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" (Romans 6:6); "and they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts", (Galatians 5:24); "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)

There should be no doubt that the old man is a dead man for the truth of this fact rests not with our willpower but with the finished work of the Cross. When Jesus died on the Cross He took care of the old man for He became the Last Adam and died. (I Cor. 15:45)

Most Christians in some manner embrace the Cross. Most accept that a death took place. Some are aware that when Jesus died the old man was crucified. But Paul told Christians, who knew that Jesus had died, to put away the old man that is dead. "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts". (Eph. 4:22) They were in the same state as the man mentioned at the beginning of this article. The old man is dead, but they have never, in knowledge, put away or buried the old man. Though he is dead yet he is still corrupting and eating away at multitudes of believers. It is as if the old man is still tied to us and though dead is still destroying us. It seems Paul might have meant this when he cried "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death." (Romans 7:24)

Both scriptures give the answer to the problems in the verses before them and both answers deal with Spirit-revealed knowledge. Knowing the old man and yet still living after him should be a sign that our knowledge is not Spirit-revealed. "But now ye

also put off all of these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds." (Col. 3:8 & 9) If you have truly seen that the old man is dead and buried, then his deeds will not come forth. "Know ye not, that as many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? *Therefore* we **are** buried with Him by baptism into death." (Romans 6:3 & 4) If we by knowledge have ben united into His death then we also are united in His burial and the old man with his corruption has been put away. And now it is "not I, but Christ" that lives.***