

We would have failed miserably. Thank God the verse goes on. "I am crucified with Christ," the paradox, "I yet live," but the answer, "~~the~~ yet not I, but Christ," Does that mean I don't live at all, it is Christ who lives? No! I am still I. The flesh is still here, the lusts of the flesh, the ^{lusts} ~~pride~~ of the eyes, and the pride of life. It is still here. But Christ is living in this flesh. This body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and if I am crucified with Christ, God never performs a word of justification that He ~~did~~ does not simultaneously begin a process of sanctification. Now one has ever been saved by Christ, without having Christ living in Him. And if Christ is living in me, He is taking this sinful, wicked, human being, he has changed the heart of stone to a heart of flesh, he has done much in me that is good, but still it is a pretty ~~poor~~ poor, ...5...., and He is taking this metal, and he is using it for His glory, and He is changing it and molding it, and He will eventually make it something that He can be proud of, tho it is mighty far from that now in every way. Back in II Cor. 4 we read a few minutes ~~ago~~ ago. "God ^{who} ~~has~~ commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, but we have this treasure in earthen vessels." We must be always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, the excellency of power must be of God, and not of us. God knows our sinful pride so well that He does not just ~~make~~ make us and make us holy. But if we are to become holy, it is God who will make us holy. It is His act, it is His goodness, it is His power, and nothing that we can do. He doesn't put us in a state where we would have a right to be proud, because He does not want us ever to be proud. We have this treasure in earthen vessels. I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live. But thank God it is not simply us. It is not that I don't live, I do live. But it is not simply I that lives, it is Christ living in me, directing me, changing me, gradually transforming me into what He wants me to be. What then do I do when I am faced with sin, faced with temptation, faced with that which would ~~threaten~~ threaten my life and my ministry? I am tempted by it, I am attracted by it, I am human, I am fleshly, I am sinful, I am living, but in the sight of God I am justified from all of this, and it is the will of God that I should realize ~~the~~ standing which I have in Him, and the fact that I can be transformed, and will eventually