You Can't Say...







For Edmond, the treasure wasn't the treasure.

For Christians, when does our treasure in Christ cease to be a treasure?



Romans 7: 15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. 16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. 17 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. 18 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature.

Romans 7: For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.



Romans 8: II And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Romans 13: 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Colossians 3: 12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Philippians 2: 5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus...

Galatians 4: 19 My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you...

Our interpretation:

We must do the work of bringing Christ into our lives.

Our mistake:

Saying to ourselves, "Christ was..."



Paul's interpretation?

Romans 12: Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Romans 6: What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father,

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Romans 6: 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

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Romans 6: 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

A "living sacrifice" carries death and life in them simultaneously.

Romans 6: II In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

For Paul: Christ is presently alive in each of us.

If you are alive in Christ

Christ must be alive in you.

You can't say 'Christ was...'

You can only say 'Christ is...'



Saying 'Christ was...'

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promotes a works-righteousness mentality.

John 14: 15 "If you love me, keep my commands.

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Saying 'Christ was...'

causes sin to linger.

Colossians 2: 21 "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? 22 These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. 23 Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

Satan's great lie: the illusion of Godliness is as good as the real thing.



Saying 'Christis...'

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means you are invaded by the person of Jesus.

Galatians 2: 20 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.

Faith is living with the conviction that Christ lives in me.



Saying 'Christis...'

means I accept Jesus wants to wreck my life.

Jesus wants to tear down your townhouse completely in order to construct a palace.



You Can't Say...Christ was...