

## "Jesus Is Enough"

The central truth of the "enough-ness" of Jesus Christ comes down to the cross of Jesus Christ. (I Cor 1:18; 2:1-5) For Paul, a crucified Messiah was so unexpected, so astonishing, that what he called "the cross" was not simply Jesus' crucifixion, His death – but the atoning work of God in Christ... in full! His virgin birth, His Sinless Life, His voluntary death, His burial, His resurrection, His ascension and His Pentecostal return. Jesus will never be "enough" simply because God loves us. That would be an insult to the cross! Only because God so loves us and sends His Son Who becomes a crucified, risen Savior can we say "Jesus is enough!" In Him we receive a Death to "not-enough"... and a Life for "more than enough." (Jo 10:10)

Our old, imperfect life cannot be made perfect. The old deficient life cannot be made sufficient. Our sinful life cannot be made holy. The old "me" must be slain and raised in perfection, killed and reborn sufficient, crucified and re-created in holiness and righteousness. In Christ, we receive a "death" and a "life" (Col 3:3-4) What He died to, we died to. What He lives to, we are alive to. (Ro 6:10-11) We must be cut off from one life and joined to another. (Col 2:11-14) It is the word, the work, the way of the cross that "undoes" and "does" – it "undoes" us from what we were – insufficient me. It does for us what we couldn't – makes us sufficient in Christ.

Let's narrow it down to two major aspects: 1) The severing power of the Cross 2) The enabling power of the Resurrection. The word of the cross is for the unrehabilitative "you". God's "enough-ness" never comes out of your old life – only out of the death of your old life. The word of the cross, then, is simple and direct: "Let there be death!" Death to the "Adam" life in you – rebel, ungodly, separated you. It cannot be saved, it must be slain. (Ro 5:12-21) Death to the sinful life in you – self-determining, self-serving, self-interested you (Ro 6:6-11; Heb 9:26). It cannot be improved, it must be replaced. Death to the darkened, devil-led you (Col 1:13; Eph 4:18). There is only one way to get out of the devil-ruling, kingdom of darkness – you have to die there! Everything that could keep you separated, condemned, and captive must be crucified, cut off from you. This is how God makes room in us for His Life, His "enough-ness"... "you died" (Col 3:3).

Now the enabling power of Jesus' resurrection goes to work (Eph 1:18-23). The word of the resurrection says, "Let there be Life"... the kind of life God shares with God. Once God's life moves into your human spirit, you are as God intended you to be: "dead to sin and alive to God". Let there be Trinitarian, God Life in you. (Eph 2:18; Jo 14:20,23,26) Now you are in God's original habitat for humanity, at home in Him and He in you. Your search for significance and security and meaning are essentially over. Let there be righteous, holy, sinless life in you. You are now a saint. Abide in Christ and abandon to Him and sin cannot make you do anything you do not choose to do (I Jo 3:9) Let there be world-overcoming, Satan-defeating, deathless Life in you (Jo 16:33; II Cor 2:14; Jo 11:25-26) The world and the devil may tempt and taunt Crucified, Risen Life, but never defeat it. It may even crucify this life, but never conquer it. The world, the devil, death can no longer name you, hold you captive, or take your life from you.

Now, you decide... is Jesus' crucified, risen life enough.... or not?



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## Praise Reports & Prayer Requests

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## Greetings

We live in a chaotic world with 3 possible choices: 1) Existential angst - fueled by chronic fear, anxiety or guilt. 2) Hopeless nihilism - a life of extreme skepticism, valueless purpose, or abject pointlessness. 3) Free and meaningful life in Christ - fearless, hopeful, eternally relevant life.

Too much of what we call religion today is constituted by an emotively driven belief system fueled by intuition. It is usually a blend of culture and consumerism in our part of the world, with my own free personal agency as the determining voice. We say we are looking for meaning, purpose, identity, even community. All the while rejecting any authoritative voice but my own. Therefore, everything is fluid. Truth, values, gender, identity, meaning - all are defined by "me". The path to self- optimization is paved with my own feelings, thoughts and intuitional desires.

May I quote that famous theologian and philosopher Stan Laurel, "Oh, what a fine mess we've gotten ourselves into Ollie!" You see, self-determination and self-deliverance can only land us in #1 or #2 above - existential angst or hopeless nihilism, both of which are meant by a loving God to fail us.

There is a third option - the only antidote to "selfie" religion - free and meaningful life in Christ. He alone confirms identity (who I am), meaning (why I am), purpose (how to live, move and have my being accordingly), and what He meant to be my "home", my forever community - God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Jesus truly is enough for all my core needs!

## Calendar

### MARCH

11 Alachua Study  
25 Ocala Study

### APRIL


4-6 Binghamton, NY (607-341-6062)


### MAY


18-21 Pope Drive Baptist, Anderson, SC  
(864-226-1789)

## Praise & Prayer

 For our sufficiency in Christ

 The angst and hopelessness that calls us ever deeper into Christ our life.

 The death of "selfie" religion in us

 A finely-tuned sense of our death and life in Christ