



## LaKesha's Pen

March 13, 2016

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Thank you so much for visiting our website! Here is an excerpt of my notes from Pastor A.J.'s sermon, "The Crucified Life, Part 2"

### Galatians 2:19-21

#### **"What does it mean to be saved?"**

Recently my husband and I went shopping for a new car. We test drove a 2015 Dodge Challenger. It only had 16,000 miles on it. It was a two door, candy apple red muscle car. It had power windows and doors. It had the digital screen for radio and XM play. As we began the drive we could hear the engine rev up. It had a smooth ride. The sales woman began to ask questions as to why we were interested in this particular vehicle. I explained to her it was just the right fit for my husband, it was exactly what he was looking for (based on the appearance). She then proceeded to give detailed information about all of the car's functionalities in detail. She explained how the Bluetooth worked and how to sync your settings to your phone and other things we did not know by just looking at the vehicle or by even driving it. It was even better than we initially thought. She went on to say, "Yea I didn't know much about this vehicle until the previous shopper took it for a test drive. Since I didn't know much about the car I had to read through the owner's manual to find out more information about it and how all the features work."

#### **This is the difference between a saved life versus an unsaved life.**

Last week we learned the significance of Jesus going to the cross. This week we studied what it means to be saved. Our life without a relationship with Christ is like having this 2015 Dodge Challenger without having the owner's manual. We can enjoy the basic things but with a manual we could enjoy so much more. On the surface our lives look pretty good, especially to those on the outside looking in. We can dress it up on the surface but underneath or on the inside things may be totally different than they appear. When we join our life with Christ by accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior, He becomes our manual for living. Through God's Word and our relationship with Christ we can now truly enjoy life with access to all the bells and whistles (blessings). He shares with us His love, His peace and His power. He gives us His wisdom and way of living life to the fullest. **John 10:10** states the thief (satan) comes only to kill, steal and destroy but Jesus came to give us Life and life more abundantly.

To read the full sermon notes, [click here!](#)

We pray that Pastor A.J.'s Message will bless you the way it blessed us! Please come back again next week for more from "LaKesha's Pen" with another inspiring message.

Yours in Christ,  
LaKesha Johnson-Lewis

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**Full Notes:**

March 6, 2016

Sermon: The Crucified Life, Part I

Scripture: Galatians 2:19-21 Amplified Bible (AMP)

**Galatians 2:19-21**

**"What does it mean to be saved?"**

Recently my husband and I went shopping for a new car. We test drove a 2015 Dodge Challenger. It only had 16,000 miles on it. It was a two door, candy apple red muscle car. It had power windows and doors. It had the digital screen for radio and XM play. As we began the drive we could hear the engine rev up. It had a smooth ride. The sales woman began to ask questions as to why we were interested in this particular vehicle. I explained to her it was just the right fit for my husband, it was exactly what he was looking for (based on the appearance). She then proceeded to give detailed information about all of the car's functionalities in detail. She explained how the Bluetooth worked and how to sync your settings to your phone and other things we did not know by just looking at the vehicle or by even driving it. It was even better than we initially thought. She went on to say, "Yea I didn't know much about this vehicle until the previous shopper took it for a test drive. Since I didn't know much about the car I had to read through the owner's manual to find out more information about it and how all the features work."

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Last week we learned the significance of Jesus going to the cross. This week we studied what it means to be saved. Our life without a relationship with Christ is like having this 2015 Dodge Challenger without having the owner's manual. We can enjoy the basic things but with a manual we could enjoy so much more. On the surface our lives look pretty good, especially to those on the outside looking in. We can dress it up on the surface but underneath or on the inside things may be totally different than they appear. When we join our life with Christ by accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior, He becomes our manual for living. Through God's Word and our relationship with Christ we can now truly enjoy life with access to all the bells and whistles (blessings). He shares with us His love, His peace and His power. He gives us His wisdom and way of living life to the

fullest. **John 10:10** states the thief (satan) comes only to kill, steal and destroy but Jesus came to give us Life and life more abundantly.

Most of us have heard of the 10 Commandments, it is God's law or standard for living. Last week we learned that this law was given to the Israelites. They eventually realized they could not meet God's standard of living and they needed a Savior to reconnect them to God. Even now God has to try to convince us that it is not what we do or don't do that gets Him to love us, He has always loved us with a perfect love. Satan will try to accuse us of not meeting God's standard and convince us we are undeserving of God's love and goodness. The Message Bible explains to us that trying to keep rules and regulations don't work for us. We must quit trying to be people who try to qualify ourselves for God's love through our own "good" deeds. I call this living the life as a "good sinner" this is a person who doesn't have a relationship with God but is overall a good person. They don't steal; they give to charities and help out those in need. They don't just out right commit the big sins (there is no such thing as big sins). Like Paul, God will bring us to the place where we awaken to the fact that we can never do enough or be good enough to bring ourselves into a relationship with Him or deserve His goodness in our lives. We must learn it's not by the outward law but by an inward Spirit; His Spirit! He wants to lead and guide us.

### **You don't have anything to prove!**

God loves you while you're still in the club; while you're still smoking weed and any other sin you may be committing or thinking of committing. God is right there with you patiently waiting and loving you with His perfect love. Allow his real love to lead you to make right choices. **Romans 6:7-12** states we are free from sin. We are free from allowing sin to have authority over us; through Christ we now have the power to say NO! You are free to follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit, free to love and free to forgive! We no longer have to place ourselves in binding situations where we must commit to sinning. No longer do we have to put ourselves in situations where we know we will fail.

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:13** tells us the things we are tempted by are common to all humans but God will always provide an escape or way out! God wants us to die to the law (our ability to be and do good) to receive 3 things:

1. **New Heart: Ezekiel 36:26** I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.
2. **New Mind: 1 Corinthians 2:16** "For who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" <sup>[a]</sup>But we have the mind of Christ.
3. **New Spirit: 2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, **he is a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

**"Butterflies can't see their wings. They can't see how truly beautiful they are, but everyone else can. People are like that as well."**

**Caterpillar vs. Butterfly**

Studies have shown that butterflies physically cannot see their own wings. This sometimes happens with us. We cannot see how beautiful we are but God and other people can. The butterfly begins as a caterpillar and eventually transforms into a new creature, a beautiful butterfly! God is trying to get us to see we are no longer the person we used to be we have become a new creation in Him! Just because you can't always see the beauty within yourself doesn't mean it's not there. You must change your perspective! If you haven't made Jesus the Christ your Savior and Lord **NOW!** is the time, if you are already a Christian **NOW!** is the time to start living like one. Don't be the type of Christian who always needs to be propped up. Come out of this world's way of living early because everything in life always brings you back to God. To the single woman God says don't make having someone a necessity; make it a choice. Don't settle for less than God's best for your life. Don't be like the Israelites and spend 40 years on what should've been an 11 day journey. If you do what God is leading you to do you can accomplish great things. Instead of taking 20 years it can take 20 days. Get past the fact you can't see your wings and just fly! Be who God created you to be! You don't see the butterfly crawling around as if it were still a caterpillar do you? No! The butterfly recognizes it no longer has to live this type of life. It realizes it has changed and can now fly and with Christ we can too! The devil does not have authority over us, he is only given authority when we choose to hand it over to him through the decisions we make. God is saying to us begin to make better choices now! The power to make right choices is available to all who will receive it. God wants you to have the power to make right choices, to have wisdom, his guidance and instruction to live a crucified life!