

**Skegness Community Church - Weekly Bible Study 2025**  
**52 passages of Scripture that every believer should know**

**Week 20 - OH, THAT SAGGING MIDDLE**

**Galatians 2: 20**

**"I have been crucified with Christ and no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."**

So many Christians live their life with what could be described as a sagging middle. They know that, at a certain point in time, they put their trust in Christ and have the assurance that they have been born again. They are also firm on the other end: they know they are going to heaven when they die. But oh, that sagging middle: those years in between - living out the principles of the Christian life in all the personal daily experiences. Galatians 2: 20 is the secret to firming up the middle of our walk with Christ. This is one of the most personal verses in the entire Bible. This single verse is perhaps the most complete description of the Christian life to be found in the New Testament. It reveals to u what Christ has done for us.

**HE TOOK SOMETHING FROM ME - MY OLD LIFE "*I have been crucified with Christ*"**

In this statement Paul is emphasising three things. 1: That the action has been completed in the past with continuing results. 2: the subject is the recipient of the action - all because of Christ. After all, we cannot crucify ourselves. We might get a hand or a foot nailed to our cross, but we cannot crucify ourselves. 3: This is a simple statement of a known fact. The Apostle went beyond simply saying that Christ was crucified **for** me. He said I was crucified **with** Christ. As the Lord Jesus hung on Calvary's cross; those in the crowd saw only one man on the centre cross. But God the Father saw not just Jesus Christ but you and all the others who would put their faith in Him hanging there. When we come to Christ, God takes our old life from us. We are "**crucified with Christ**". We are to take up our cross and live like dead men and women today, dead to our old lives and alive to a new life in Christ.

**HE PUT SOMETHING IN ME - MY NEW LIFE "*Christ lives in me*"**

The new life in Christ is not a reformed life. It is not an improved life, not even a changed life. It is an exchanged life. We give God our old life, and He gives us one that is brand new. The Apostle Paul had died to his old self-centred life and awakened to a new life in Christ. Think of this awesome thought: "**Christ lives in me**". If we could literally awaken to this revelation, we would be on the way to turning our "world upside down" like those who went before us in the early church (Acts 17:6). There is no way to defeat a person who truly believes that Christ is alive and has taken up permanent residency in them.

**HE GAVE SOMETHING FOR ME - HIS OWN LIFE "*(He) loved me and gave Himself for me.*"**

There are two realities I wish the whole world could know: God loves you and gave Himself for you. Think of it: "**He loved me**". If I asked Paul how is it that he loved me, he would fire back without batting an eye, "**He .. Gave Himself for me**". What a Saviour. You can firm up the middle of your life by coming to the reality of this one verse.

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As you memorise this verse, meditate on the words written by Elizabeth Clephane over one hundred and fifty years ago in her old song of the faith:

***"I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place:  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face:  
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss:  
My sinful self, my only shame: my glory - all the cross."***