Three Conditions For Being A Christian

Matthew 16:21-28

Intro:

A. The disciples were beginning to believe that Jesus was the Christ.
   1. He asked them what people were saying.  V.13-14
   2. He asked them what they thought of Him.  V.15-16

B. He revealed to them truths about the church.
   1. His church was built upon a rock, Himself.  V.18a
   2. The gates of hell would not prevail against it.  V.18b
   3. His church would have power and authority.  V.19

C. "From that time forth began Jesus to show His disciples."
   1. He must go to Jerusalem.
   2. He must suffer many things.
   3. He must be killed.  Matthew 17:22-23
   4. He must be raised again the third day.

D. The disciples objected to His teaching.
   1. Peter took him and began to rebuke him.
   2. "Be it far from thee, Lord."
   3. "This shalt not be unto thee."

E. Jesus rebuked Peter for being a stumbling stone.
   1. Peter had become an adversary of Jesus.
   2. Peter was thinking like a man and not like God.

I. The Truth About Discipleship.  V.24

A. "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself."
   1. "Wants to be in my presence, go where I go."
   2. \textit{deny} $\equiv$ \textit{απαρνομαι} = "to deny utterly" "to totally disown," "to refuse", "to decline."
   3. "let him totally disown and refuse self."
B. "...and take up his cross."
   1. cross = σταυρος = "an upright ale or stake,"
      Σταυρος, means to drive stakes. It never
      means two pieces of wood joining each other
      at any angle. Even the Latin word crux means
      a mere stake.
   2. Jesus was going to be killed. All who follow
      Him must decide to die with Him or for Him.

C. "...and follow me."
   1. follow = ακολουθεω = "to be a footman." Hence
      to go with or after someone. Used especially
      of soldiers, servants, and pupils.

II. God's Principle Of Profit And Loss.

A. "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it;"
   v.25
   1. "The man who tries to save his life will lose
      it."
   2. save = σωζω = "preserve safe from danger."
   3. life = ψυχη = "breath of animal life," "life
      as such", not the soul but the physical life.
   4. lose = απολλυμι = "to destroy utterly," "to
      suffer ruin, loss", "what is lost to another
      as a sheep, lost to the fold and the
      shepherd.

B. "...and whosoever will lose his life for my sake
   shall find it."
   1. lose = (see A,4, above)
   2. ενεκα = "on account of", for the sake of him
      or that one, emphatic. For my sake, means on
      account of Jesus you may lose your life to
      religion or some just cause but this doesn't
      count! It must be on account Jesus.

III. The Importance Of A Life.

A. "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the
   whole world, and lose his own soul? v.26
   1. profited = οφελεω = "to further", "to help;"
      "be of service to anyone."
   2. gain = κερδαινω = "to derive profit or
      advantage from"
3. **whole world** = ὅλον κόσμον = “all”, “every part”,
    world
4. **lose** = ζημίω = “to suffer loss,” “to bring
    loss upon one’s self,” “to be a loser.”
5. **soul** = ψυχή = “animal life”

C. **We know that we cannot buy our soul’s salvation
with any price. We can however give our lives in
service to God. We do not have but one life.
When it is over you cannot trade anything for a
life of service. You live your life, it is yours
forever. You cannot trade with any man, even
Jesus!**

IV. **When Shall Men Be Rewarded For A Life Of Service?**

A. “**For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his
Father with his angels...**” v.27
   1. “...is going to come in His Father’s splendor.”
   2. “...and will be accompanied by His angels...”

B. “...and then he shall reward every man according to
his works.”
   1. **reward** = αποδίδωμι = “spoken in reference to
      obligation of any kind,” “to give in full,”
      “pay over or off”
   2. **according to** = κατά = (down towards, denoting
      object, and intention, in reference to some
      standard previously agreed upon)
   3. **works** = πράξις = “a doing,” “action,”
      “practice,” “conduct,” our lifestyle.
   4. Jesus teaches more explicitly. Matthew
      19:27-30
   5. The “regeneration” is the 1,000 reign.

C. **Some of the disciples listening would live to see
some manifestations of His coming kingdom.**
   1. They would see his entry into Jerusalem.
      V.28
   2. They would see the physical phenomena that
      occurred at His crucifixion.
   3. They would see Him for 50 days.
   4. They would see Pentecost.
   5. They would see the glorious church, which is
to be His bride in the Millennium.