

## 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. deny = *απαρνεομαι* = "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," Σταυρωω, 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 = ωφελεω = "to further", "to help;" "be of service to anyone."
2. gain = κερδαινω = "to derive profit or advantage from"

3. whole world= ολον κοσμον = "all", "every part",  
world
4. lose = ζημιωω = "to suffer loss," "to bring  
loss upon one's self," "to be a loser."
5. soul = ψυχη = "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 = αποδιδωμι = "spoken in reference to obligation of any kind," "to give in full," "pay over or off"
  2. according to = κατα = (down towards, denoting object, and intention, in reference to some standard previously agreed upon)
  3. works = πραξις = "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.