

Losing My Life

Luke 9:23-25

Luke 14:25-33

Philippians 3:1-14



Lie

2026 Goals

- Growing in an intimate relationship with God. (John 17:1-3)
- Losing our life to serve God and serve others. (Luke 9:23)
- Walking (living) a life that is fully pleasing in God's sight. (1 Thess 4:1)
- Doing what God requires. (Deuteronomy 10:12-14)
- Being good stewards of God's gift of time. (Ephesians 5:16)

Eternal Life (John 17:2-3)

- What is eternal life?
- What is eternal death?
- When does eternal life begin?
- What does eternal life look like?

Goal #2 - Deny Self (Luke 9:23-25)

- Sinners cannot set the conditions by which they come to Christ.
- **NO ONE** is **ABLE** to come to Christ. (John 6:44; Rom 5:6; Matt 19:26)
- Salvation, including repentance and faith, is a work of God and God alone. BUT when God does His work it is not religious but real.
 - ★ God's work of salvation is to transform a sinner (a disobedient, enemy) into a person who now practice righteousness as opposed to continuing in sin.
- Christ's evidence of salvation:
 - ① Denying yourself - a command!
 - Laying down your life (1 John 3:16)
 - Losing your life
 - ② Take up your cross daily - a command!
 - The definition of "your cross".
 - ③ Following Him - a command!
 - Following His teachings - Matthew 7:24-29.

Self-Denial - the Foundation

- Denying self is an evidence that God has done His work. The work of self-denial does not earn salvation **it proves it**. MEDITATE.
- Self-denial is the FOUNDATION of taking up your cross daily and following Christ.
 - Get self-denial wrong and you will never pick up your cross daily and you will not be following Christ.
 - Get self-denial wrong and you will not be worthy of Christ. (Matt 10:37-39)
 - Self-denial is counter-cultural. The world teaches self-esteem and look about self-denial as something weak.
 - Self-denial does not follow the religious evil philosophy of “easy-believism”.
- Definition of “*deny*” - a very strong term.
 - Peter’s denials - Matthew 26:70-72.
 - Rebukes who permanently deny Christ - Luke 12:9; Titus 1:16; Jude 4.
 - John the Baptist’s denial - John 1:20
 - Israel’s rejection of their Messiah - Acts 3:13-14
- Christ’s example of self-denial (Philippians 2:2-8)
 - Last week: The cross was the greatest example of self-denial. We are to have the SAME mind as Christ!
 - “He made Himself of no reputation”
 - “He took the form of a bond servant”
 - He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death.
 - He came not to do His will but the will of His father.
 - Consider Christ in the Garden (Matthew 26:42)
 - Christ’s Reward: Philippians 2:9-11
- Paul’s example of self-denial - Philippians 3:1-8
 - From being a self-righteous Pharisee to a *doulos* for Christ!
 - All of his self-righteousness turned in dung! See Isaiah 64:6.
 - He learned, believed and accepted that NOTHING in him was good. (Romans 7:18)
 - He saw himself as the chief of sinners until the day he died. (1 Tim 1:15)
 - During his ministry he considered himself “less than the least of all the saints” (Ephesians 3:8)
 - He went from being a PROUD RELIGIOUS person to being one who was “poor in spirit” and “mourning” for his many sins. (Matthew 5:3-4)
 - ★ Paul’s **command**: “Imitate me just as I imitate Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:1)
- Self-denial, as called for by Christ, is one of TOTAL SURRENDER to God **and others**.
 - Self-denial is giving up everything for the sake of Christ. (Luke 14:26-33)
 - Self-denial is esteeming others more important than yourself. (Philippians 2:3-4; Luke 18:14; Romans 12:10)
 - Self-denial is laying down your LIFE for the sake of others! (1 John 3:16)
 - Self-denial is **inconveniencing** yourself for the sake of others.

- Self-denial is walking “with all lowliness and gentleness, with long suffering, bearing with one another is love. . .” (Ephesians 4:1-2)
- Self-denial is “**submitting** to one another in the fear of God” (Eph 5:21)
- Self-denial is the opposite of self-righteousness. Self-righteousness is an abomination in the sight of God!
 - A self-righteous person does not repent! Why? Because a self-righteous person does not believe he is a gross sinner! (Luke 13:1-5; Mark 2:17)
 - A self-righteous person does not confess his sins and in so doing calls God a liar (1 John 1:6-10).
 - A self-righteous person does not pursue holiness and yet believes he will go to heaven when he dies. (Hebrews 12:14)
 - A self-righteous person does not have a humble and contrite heart and he certainly does not tremble at God Word - God is far from such a person (Isaiah 57:15; 66:1-2).
 - A self-righteous person finds no need to continually examine himself (2 Corinthians 13:5).

Pick Up Your Cross Daily (Luke 9:23; Matthew 10:38)

- Understanding the word “cross”.
 - What the “cross” is **NOT** - a religious decoration, necklace, earring!
 - What the “cross” **IS** - a symbol of a horrible suffering, pain and death.
- Christ’s audience heard Christ telling them they must be willing to endure hatred, hostility, rejection, reproach, persecution, shame, and even death - all in following Christ. (Heb 11:24-26, 35-40; 1 Peter 1:6-7; Philip 1:29; Acts 14:22; 2 Timothy 3:12)
- Paul saw all his suffering as a small price to pay when compared to eternal life - see Romans 8:16-18; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18; 2 Cor 11:16-28.
- This also **PUTTING TO DEATH** fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, covetousness, and all other sins. (Colossians 3:5; 1 Peter 2:1; Rom 6:6; 8:13; Galatians 5:24; Ephesians 5:3-6)
- Paul’s example: Acts 20:22-24; 21:13
- Paul’s **command**: “Imitate me, as I imitate Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:1)

Follow Christ (Luke 9:23)

- **PRESENT TENSE** - something that is done continuously.
- Following Christ means doing the will of the Father. (Matthew 7:21; 1 John 2:17)
- Doing the will of God is doing what He commands in His written Word.
- Following Christ, whatever the cost, is a demonstration of one’s love for his Lord. (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14; 1 John 5:1-3)
- Following Christ is walking (living) as He walked (lived). (1 John 2:6)
 - How did Christ walk?
 - Living in complete dependence on the Father (John 5:30)

- Doing the Father's will. (John 5:30; 4:34; 6:38; Psalm 40:7-8; Hebrews 10:7-9; Philippians 2:5-8)
- Obeying God's commandments - the Law (Isaiah 42:21; Matt 5:17).
- Prayer - **fervent** prayer (Hebrews 5:7).

Losing One's Life (Luke 9:24)

- Love for one's life is one of the greatest, if not the greatest, obstacle in following Christ.
- Following Christ is evidence when one abandons all self-love, self-esteem, self-justification, self-righteousness, self-interests, their desires, dreams, and ambitions in this life.
- Self-denial, taking up one's cross, following Christ totally, losing one's life **for Christ's sake**. (Matthew 10:39; 16:25; Mark 8:35; **John 12:25**)
- The cost of following Christ - three examples (Luke 9:57-62)
 - (vv 57-58) It is not an easy life - count the cost (Luke 14:28-30).
 - (vv 59-60) The priority must be above parents, spouses, children, etc.
 - (vv 61-62) When I get everything in order then . . . Following Christ must be the TOP priority in one's life.
- Those who understand God's love and mercy **willingly** give up everything for the sake of following Christ! (Luke 14:33; Philippians 3:7-14)

Living a Self-Denied Life

- One living poor in spirit (Matthew 5:3). He knows that he is nothing, deserves nothing and need of everything from God.
- One mourning over his sins (Matthew 5:4; Romans 7:12-25).
- One with a humble and contrite heart (Isaiah 57:15; 66:2; Psalm 51:17)
 - ★ Humility is not thinking lowly of oneself - it is not thinking of yourself at all!
- One living to glorify God by doing HIS will. (Matt 7:21; 12:50; 1 Cor 6:20; 1 Peter 4:2; 1 John 2:17; Eph 6:6; Rom 6:11)
- One offering himself up **daily** as a living sacrifice unto God (Romans 12:1-2)
- One presenting his instruments (members of his body) unto God as instruments of righteousness - not unrighteousness (Romans 6:13).
- One who consider others more important than himself (Philippians 2:3-8; Romans 12:10; Luke 18:14; Ephesians 3:8; 1 Timothy 1:15)
- One who lays down his LIFE for his brethren (1 John 3:16).

The Rewards of a Losing One's Life

- You find REAL LIFE (Matthew 10:39; 16:25)
- You will hear Christ greet you with "Well done, good and faithful servant". (Matthew 25:21)
- Christ's answer: Matthew 19:27-29