

A Near Death Experience

- We have all had a moment in our life where we were convinced we were going to die.
- At that moment everything else receded into the background.
- Everything that had seemed so important to us before that moment became unimportant
- Only one thing mattered then ... our soul.

This Moment is Coming

- We can choose whether to be prepared or not.
- *“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 35 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? 37 Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” Mark 8:34-37*
- Right now: What choice have we made?

Jesus Loving Warning Examined

- *whoever desires to **save his life will lose it,***
- *but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.*
- Jesus Concluded
- *“For what will it profit a man if he **gains** the whole world, and **loses** his own soul?”*
- *“what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”*
- The emotions of His words echo that of our own feelings during a “near death” moment.

If We Want....

- If we want Jesus to “*save our soul*” at our death.
- We must “*come after Him,*” “*deny ourselves,*” “*take up our cross*” and “*follow Him*” **NOW.**
- Many people interpret these things to their own relative level of commitment.
- Jesus level of commitment was absolute:
- *loses his life for My sake and the gospel's*

Losing our Life – Paul

*“But what things were gain to me, these **I have counted loss** for Christ.*

***I have suffered the loss** of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” Phil. 3:7-9).*

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.

Gal 2:20

- What most people only think about when forced to at the point of death, Paul saw by faith as soon as He heard the gospel.
- What about us?
- Have we made that commitment?
- Are we keeping it with all our heart?
- *15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind ... 17 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. Phil 3:15*
17

A Question of Priorities

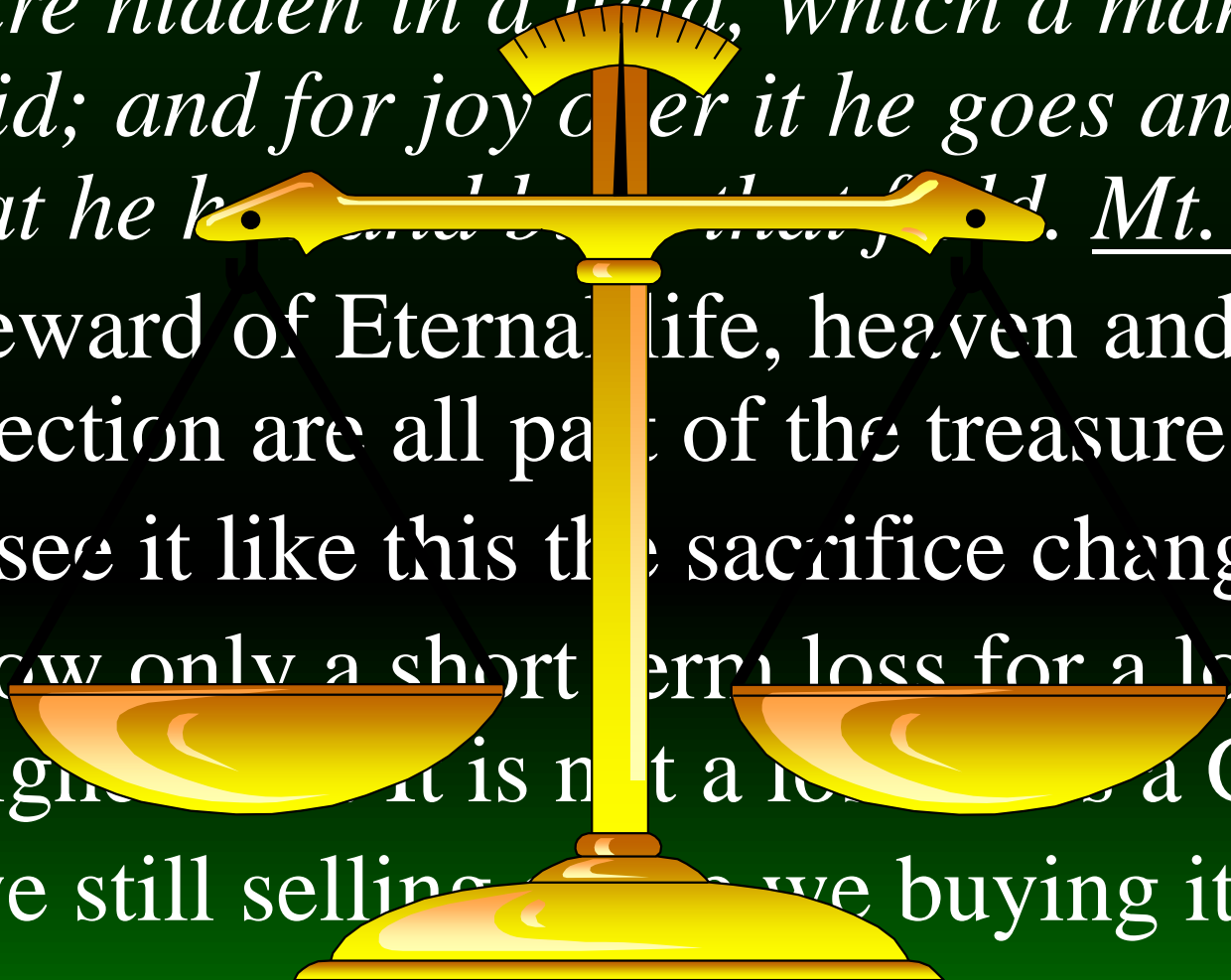
- ***“Remember Lot's wife.*** *Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.” Lk. 17:32-33*
- Lot's family had two choices:
- Die with Sodom and Gomorrah.
- Leave Sodom and Gomorrah.
- It appears Lot's wife was torn.
- Jesus' revealed we all have the same choice.
- To die with the world in our sins
- To leave this world now and live after it dies

Jesus Already Showed Us

- *Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours*
- The cup was His death on the cross. His ultimate sacrifice for the sake of the gospel!
- *“And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. Lk. 22:42-44*
- This is quality of denial He expected.
- This is how we lose our life for His sake.

A Parable of Explanation

- *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Mt. 13:44*
- The reward of Eternal life, heaven and the resurrection are all part of the treasure.
- If we see it like this the sacrifice changes.
- It is now only a short term loss for a longer and higher gain. It is not a loss but a Gain!
- Are we still selling it? Or are we buying it back?



The Price of our Confession

- Jesus is Christ and Lord – full repentance.
- No matter what the gain... Sin must be “**lost.**”
- Frivolous and unworthy goals must be “**lost**”
- In our “fruits worthy of repentance” we “**lose our life.**”
- *I have **suffered the loss of all** things, and count them as **rubbish**, that I may gain Christ*
- *I have been crucified with Christ; it is **no longer I who live**, but Christ lives in me;*
- Can I make melody with these words?

The Price of our Confession

- *“He who loves **father** or **mother** more than **Me** is **not worthy** of Me. And he who loves **son** or **daughter** more than **Me** is **not worthy** of Me. And he who does not **take his cross** and **follow after Me** is **not worthy** of **Me**. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.*

Mt. 10:37-39

- Even mother, father, son, or daughter must be “**lost**” and “**loved less**”

Unworthy of Me



Worthy of Me



If We Want....

- If we want Jesus to “*save our soul*”
- We must “*come after Him,*” “*deny ourselves,*” “*take up our cross*” and “*follow Him*” now.
- “*Remember Lot's wife. “seek to save his life” whoever loses his life will preserve it.” Lk. 17:32-33*

Unworthy of Me

- Is the gospel one of many equally important commitments to us?
- If worship interferes with other commitments (work, hobby, family), will we “*save their lives*” and forsake or *lose our life*?
- Are we teaching our children to *lose their life* teaching them that commitment to sports or school activities is less important than a Bible class?

Unworthy of Me

- For too many today:
- Any command that causes unhappiness is set it aside, since “God wants me to be happy.”
- This is how “*the desire for other things chokes the word.*”
- If Jesus had held this attitude, we would have no gospel.
- If Paul had felt like this, he could not have spoken of them as rubbish.

For the Present

- Our time and resources are ours.
- we can still choose where we use them.
- based on things we enjoy or profit us.
- “*My life and I will live as I please.*”
- If we want it to be Permanent:
- We “*lose our life, “suffer the loss of all things”*” and *love Jesus more than these*

Only what He has done

- First Jesus in the garden. Later Paul
- *“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” Phil. 3:7-9).*
- Now it is our turn. can we walk with them: seeing these sacrifices as normal & welcome