

***“These things I have spoken
to you, that in Me you may
have peace. In the world you
will have tribulation;
but be of good cheer,
I have overcome the world.”***

John 16:33

Obviously, in this world we will face challenges and trials as a result of following Christ as Lord. What are those challenges, and where do we find our source of peace and comfort?

Matthew 5:11-12: “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven.”

Ephesians 6:12: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

What’s more?

Titus 2:11-12: “The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.”

2Corinthians 5:15: “He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”

Therefore:

Galatians 5:24: “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

As well:

Acts 20:24: “None of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy.”

Am I committed to follow Christ as Lord, no matter the cost?

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“For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it?”

Luke 14:28



Why must we be aware that there is a cost to follow Christ, so we therefore focus of our life to truly abide in Him?

1Peter 2:21: “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.”

Hebrews 10:36: “For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.”

Matthew 16:26: “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Mark 8:38: “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

Matthew 16:27: “For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.”

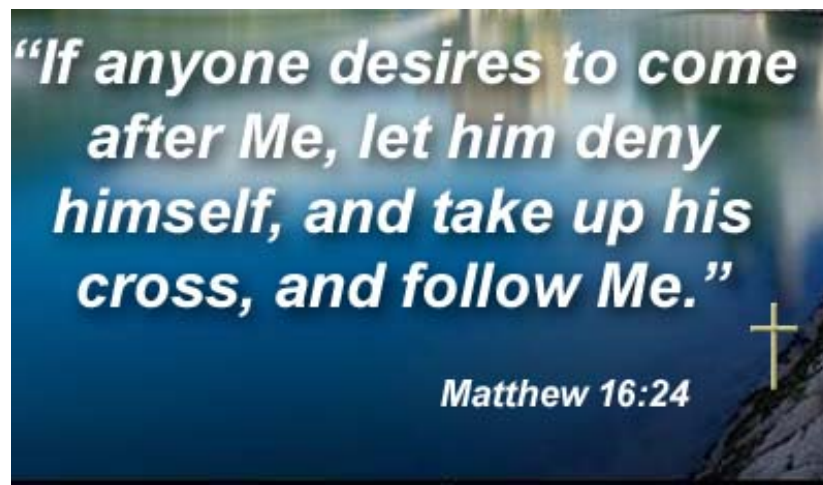
Therefore:

Galatians 5:24: “Those *who are* Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

Luke 14:33: “So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”

Do I understand the importance of acknowledging that there is a cost to follow Christ, so I stand firm to follow Him as Lord?

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How clear was Jesus in declaring that we must live to follow Him, and what must we expect in doing so?

John 15:18-20: "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you."

What's more?

John 8:12: "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

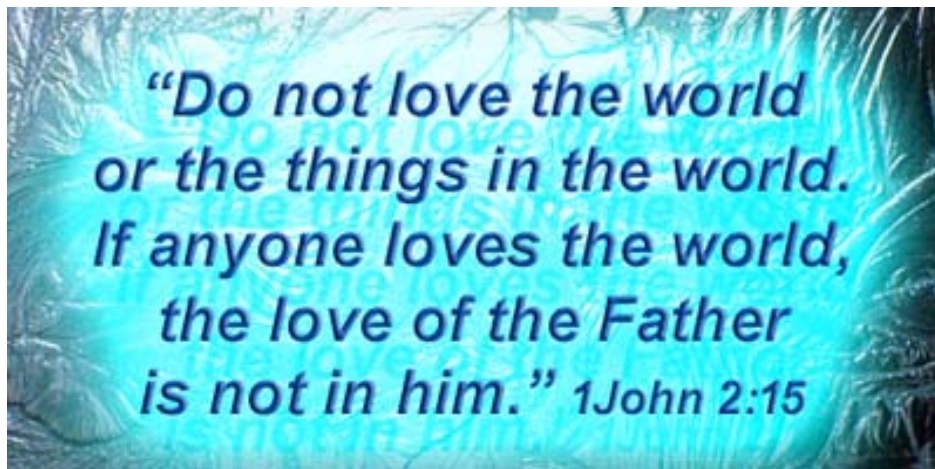
Therefore:

Matthew 7:24-26: "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand."

Matthew 16:25: "Whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

Are Jesus' words clear enough for me?

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What is the call on our life if we are to follow Christ as Lord?

Matthew 7:13-14: "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Philippians 2:5-8: Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross."

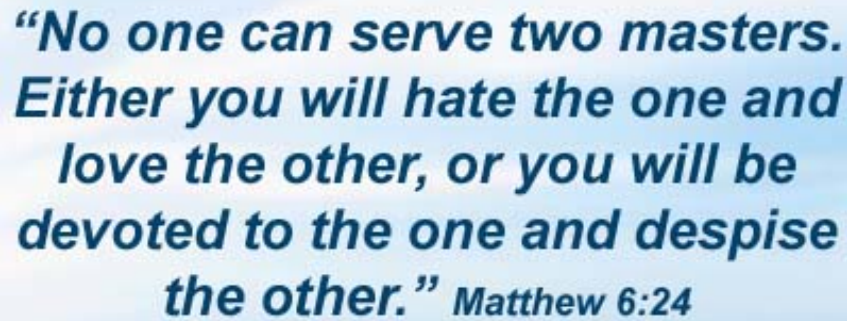
Therefore:

1Corinthians 9:26-27: "I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection."

Philippians 3:12: "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me."

Am I committed to follow Christ, no matter the cost?

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“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other.” Matthew 6:24

What are the traps of the enemy that we must always be on guard against?

Colossians 2:8: “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”

Matthew 7:15: “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.”

Why?

Titus 1:16: “They profess to know God, but in works they deny *Him*, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.”

Our only true anchor being:

1Corinthians 3:11: “For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

What’s more?

Matthew 16:26: “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

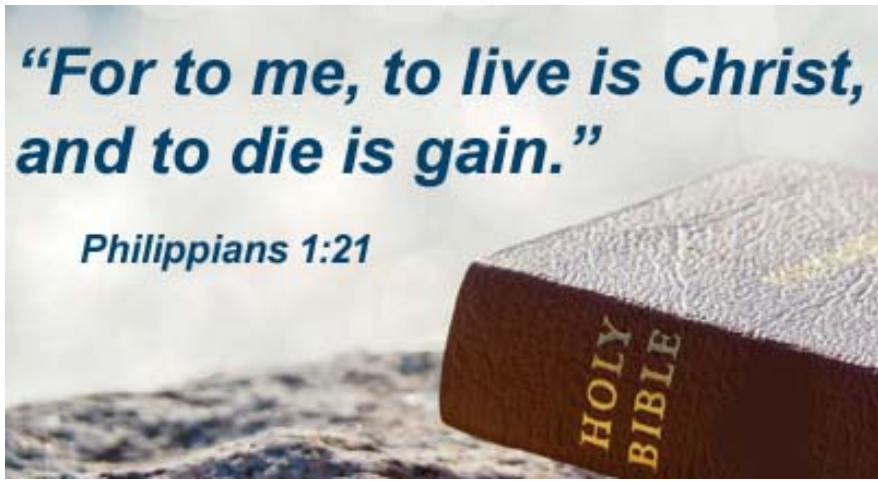
Matthew 7:21: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”

Therefore:

Proverbs 22:3: “A prudent *man* foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.”

Am I strongly anchored in Christ, so I am not fooled and deceived by the world?

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**“For to me, to live is Christ,
and to die is gain.”**

Philippians 1:21

What should I live, so I truly follow Christ?

Galatians 2:20: “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

2Corinthians 5:17: “Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

Hebrews 12:1: “Therefore, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”

Ephesians 5:1-2: “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

1Peter 4:1-2: “Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.”

1Corinthians 6:20: “For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

Am I committed to abide in Christ and live to follow Him no matter the cost?

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