

*Mark 8:31-38*  
*Taking Up Our Cross*

*"I have learned that it's a passion for God that will give you a passion for people. And this utter delight in Him will come from the toughest of trials that you are about to face. Our affliction becomes that which pushes and shoves us down the road to the cross... And that's what it means to become like Him in His death. Don't think that the cross is simply the wheelchair, or an irritating job, or an irksome mother-in-law. The cross is the place where you die to sin and live for God." Joni Eareckson Tada*

- I. We know that the gospel was given to us as a grace offering to save our souls from living an eternity in hell. We also know that by faith, we must believe upon it with full sincerity of heart to be saved. There is no other way! Our salvation overcame two powerful enemies of the gospel: Satan, and pride. Satan will do what he can to blind the minds of unbelievers so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ. Sinful pride will assert itself over the truth of the gospel thinking that it knows better than the God of all truth, Jesus Christ. Keeping the things of God in mind means that we guard ourselves against Satan's deception and our pride.

Mark 8:31-33  
1 Cor. 15:1-4  
Rom. 10:9-10  
2 Cor. 4:4  
1 Cor. 1:18-21

**Romans 10:8-10,11** *"The Word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who puts their trust in him will never be put to shame."*

- II. The new life we received upon salvation belongs to Jesus; it is no longer ours to do with as we please. His terms of discipleship require total allegiance to him as our Lord and Savior. That's what it means to take up our cross daily. Jesus commands us to do three things as his disciples. He says that we are to keep ourselves from wants and desires that are contrary to his holiness, that we are to completely surrender our lives to his Lordship over us, and that we are to follow him wherever he takes us.

Mark 8:34-37

Col. 3:1-10

Rom. 12:1-2

**Gal. 2:20** *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.*

- III. We live, like in the time of Christ, in an adulterous sinful generation who is ashamed of Jesus and his words. On the other hand, we who know him are not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. Therefore, we must never hide the fact that we are sincere, sold out followers of Jesus Christ to a world that seeks to make us ashamed of it. "...despite the hate that the world directs at Christ and his followers, we dare not keep our love for Him secret. If we know Him, we must openly profess our allegiance to Him." Sproul

Mark 8:38

Rom. 1:16

**1 Tim. 1:7-8** *For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace...*