



Main point - Let us deny ourselves for Christ

- 1 - What does it mean to be the Christ?
- 2 - What does it mean to be his disciple?

#1 :

1 Corinthians 1:17-24

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God... For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

#2:

Romans 3:23-26

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies him who has faith in Jesus.

#3:

"The image of the cross signifies a total claim on the disciple's allegiance and the total relinquishment of his resources to Jesus...In Mark's day that was not merely a theoretical truth, for the Gospel of Mark was probably written in Rome near the time of Nero's crucifixion of Christians. Jesus' call to self-denial and suffering by the use of this image would remind Mark's community that their adversity under Nero was not a sign of God's abandonment but rather of their identification with and faithfulness to the way of Jesus himself."

James Edwards
The Gospel According to Mark

#4:

Psalm 49:5-8

Why should I fear in times of trouble,
when the iniquity of those who cheat me surrounds me,
those who trust in their wealth
and boast of the abundance of their riches?
Truly no man can ransom another,
or give to God the price of his life,
for the ransom of their life is costly
and can never suffice...

#5:

“I was made to see that if ever I would suffer rightly, I must first pass a sentence of death upon everything that can be properly called a thing of this life, even to reckon myself, my wife, my children, my health, my enjoyment, and all, as dead to me, and myself as dead to them. The second, was, to live upon God that is invisible.”

John Bunyan
Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners

#6:

“(I wrote this book to) awaken you, rouse you off of your beds of ease, security, and pleasure, and fetch you down upon your knees before him to beg of him grace to be concerned about the salvation of your souls.”

John Bunyan
The Greatness of the Soul

#7:

“(Jesus is saying) Following me is not like following...some other masters. The wind sits always on my face and the foaming rage of the sea of this world, and the proud and lofty waves thereof do continually beat upon the sides of the bark or ship that myself, my cause, and my followers are in; he therefore that will not run hazards, and that is afraid to venture a drowning, let him not set foot into this vessel.”

John Bunyan
The Greatness of the Soul