

*It'll Be Worth It After All*  
Romans 8:17~18

*It'll be worth it after all...* That is message that Paul is sharing with those in Rome, who have taken up the cross, and are following Jesus Christ.

Though the way be *hard*, though the way be *rough*, though it is the way of *self-sacrifice*, *self-denial*, and *suffering*... it is the WAY to GLORY!

It'll be worth it all... That's what he's saying here, listen...

<sup>17b</sup> ...*if so be that we suffer with him*, (Speaking of Christ)... *that we may be also glorified together*.

**If we SUFFER with Him... we will be GLORIFIED with Him...**

**T:** Paul says... They who "*Take up the Cross*" of the Lord Jesus, and live "*Crucified Lives*" As Paul puts it in verses 12~13... They who "*Put to death*" the deeds of the FLESH... those who "*crucify*" their "*self-will*", their "*self-desires*"... those who live "*Crucified Lives*" yielding themselves to Christ, to His Will and purpose... They are the "Sons of GOD!" (Vs 14) The children of God...

Here is where it's extremely important to understand what Paul is saying...

They are the "Sons of GOD"... NOT those who conform to the *Law of Moses!*

You see, Paul is writing to Jews... those who prided themselves as being the "*Children of God...*" the "*Children of Abraham.*" Those who possessed adhered to the Holy Law of Moses...

But here, Paul is making his point crystal clear...

**T:** NO ONE by "*adherence to the Law of Moses*" will enter the kingdom!

Only those who come by the "*Way of the Cross*"... only they who live "*Crucified Lives*" are God's true children, and will inherit the kingdom of God!

When Jesus came on the scene... he came preaching... "*Repent, for the Kingdom of God*" is at hand! In other words, "*Turn around, I'm here!*" *I have come to get you...* Just as in Genesis 3, God came looking for Adam and Eve... So has Christ come looking for us!

The "*Call of the Gospel*" is a "*Call to Repentance!*" It is a call to TURN!

A call for all men to turn from their own will and ways... and yield themselves to Jesus Christ! And beloved, the ONLY possible way to do that, is through the Cross!

To follow Christ, **one must** "*Take up the Cross...*" That's what the Master said... "*If any man come to, let him deny himself, take up the cross and follow me...*" To "*take up the cross*" means to "*Crucify*" our Self-Will, our Self-ambitions...

Simply put, it is a LIFE of dying to SELF... Making it possible, to live our lives yielded to HIS WILL!

Now, you know as well as I do... I can't live "*Two Different Lives...*"

It's impossible! **You cannot live to God... and to Self... at the same time...**

**T:** Listen closely... That is the *deceptive allure* of “Religion” ...  
That’s why I constantly remind you of the dangers of Religion... It allows you to do just that ...

Religion gives you “*a standard*” to live by, things you must do...  
It tells you “*How to Act*” and “*How not to act*” ...

And by doing so...one feels a certain peace with God. It leads us to feel good about ourselves, seeing that we live pretty clean lives, and try to do what’s right. We could point to the “*Mosaic Law*”, the “*Law of Moses*...” what we westerners call the 10 commandments...and have a false sense of pleasing God by our adherence to them! All the while, one can still live out his own will, not surrendering his life to God!

Adherence to the Law gives an “*outward appearance*” of Righteousness...  
...but it’s not the Righteousness that God requires!

Reason being, righteousness that comes by our adherence to the Law is not righteousness at all!  
Because it is produced by me...Self-Righteousness, self made righteousness.

And according to Paul, we are sinners. Totally depraved sinners. I haven’t the slightest possibility of producing the lest fiber of righteousness...Listen to what he says in Romans 7:18...

<sup>18</sup>For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwells no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. <sup>19</sup>For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwells in me

In short...the Nature within him, (what he calls the FLESH) is Sinful... One that is sinful through and through... A nature that hasn’t the slightest hope of ever producing anything good, as far as righteousness. A nature that is enmity with God!

Therefore... Regardless of the kind of Religion one serves, regardless of what you believe and strive to live to...IT WON’T HELP!

None of that gets to the ROOT of the problem...The “*Sinful, Rebellious Nature*” within us!

That’s why I KNOW...that the gospel of Jesus Christ is real!  
That’s how I KNOW...that the “*Message of the Cross*” is the ONLY HOPE for man...

★ Religion gives you a list of do’s and don’ts...  
**While Christ just hands you a Cross...**

**Christianity differs from Religion, in that Christianity has no “Rules” to live by,  
...simply a Cross-to “Die” on...**

We will do one of two things... We will either “*Crucify Christ*” and live for ourselves...  
Or we will “*Crucify ourselves*” and live for Christ...

But one thing is certain...Some-bodies got to DIE!

If we live unto ourselves...we crucify the Lord Jesus...and in the end...we will DIE in our sin...  
But if we “*take up the cross*” and live “*crucified lives*”...then we are free to live for God...and will live.

Religion gives you a list of do's and don'ts... While Christ just hands you a Cross...  
(Vs 12~13) <sup>12</sup>*Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.* <sup>13</sup>*For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die:*

Paul says... Seeing that Christ died for us...we are no longer under obligation to the Law! We no longer seek to please God by our adherence to the Law... Paul says, all that do, all that seek to please God by their adherence to the Law...WILL DIE in their sin! For the simple reason Paul states in 8:3~8...

<sup>3</sup>For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: <sup>4</sup>That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. <sup>7</sup>Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. <sup>8</sup>So then they that are in the **flesh** cannot please God.

Listen... The problem is the FLESH within us... And the only true answer is the Cross!

**The cross strikes at the root of the tree...rather than simply the branches.** ERWIN LUTZER

<sup>13</sup>*For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, (of the **FLESH**) ye shall live.*

Listen very closely... The message of the Cross, the Preaching of the Cross, is a call for all men to surrender their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ!

It is a call to “*Turn from Our Sin*” by “*Turning to the Cross...*” living “*Crucified Lives*” here on earth... **Galatians 2:19~20**... <sup>19</sup>For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. <sup>20</sup>I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ live in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

It is a call to “*die daily...*” It is the way of *self-sacrifice*, the way of *self-denial*, the way of *suffering*...

**BUT...keep in mind**, Paul says... **It is the way to Glory!**

*...if so be that we suffer with him, (Speaking of Christ)...that we may be also glorified together.*

**C.H. Spurgeon** put it this way...

There will be no “*Crown wearers*” in Heaven...who were not “*Cross bearers*” on earth...

Those who go by “*Way of the Cross*” are the children of God... And if children, of God, then heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ!

**It is a promise that all follow Christ...will “*Inherit the Kingdom of God!*”**

**If we SUFFER with Him...we will be GLORIFIED with Him...**

**Whosoever shall “*lose his life*” ...shall find it... Whosoever shall “*keep his life*” shall loose it...**

<sup>18</sup>*For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

Knowing what lies in store for us in the end, knowing that one day, at the end of this road we are traveling, knowing that we will “*Inherit the Kingdom of God!*” makes it “worth it all!”

When you look at “*what we give up here*”, what we “*suffer here*”...when you compare them to what we will be given in the end...there's NO COMPARISON! It will be worth it all!