

**DISCIPLESHIP 3  
GOD'S PLAN  
SERIES**

**UNIT II - LESSON 1, 2  
CHRIST LIVING THROUGH YOU  
JESUS, OUR EXAMPLE**

for

**CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE  
CHRISTIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

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## **LIVING ACCORDING TO GOD'S PLAN (WAYS)**

### **UNIT II - THE WAY OF THE CROSS**

#### **LESSON 1- THE WAY OF THE CROSS (PART 1) - CHRIST LIVING THROUGH YOU**

##### **REVIEW**

OUR FATHER GOD says, Psalm 81:8, "Hear, O my people, and I will testify unto thee..."

Now His (God's) testimony is this

**"...if thou wilt hearken unto me..."** **Hearken**, means to listen carefully, attentively with an attitude of obedience.

What is God's testimony to us if we hearken, listen diligently and then do what our Father God says to us?

##### **(1). "There shall NO STRANGE GOD BE IN THEE:"**

Is it possible for a BORN AGAIN child of God to have a strange god; a devil, or demon/demons in him? YES, it is possible! The open door that allows demonic activity in a child of God is not living according to God's plan; is not hearkening unto the voice of God.

##### **(2). "... neither shalt thou WORSHIP any strange gods."**

What are strange gods which we worship? Strange gods in our lives which we worship are every thing or every one who has first place in our lives. Anything which keeps us from HEARING God. If you are having a difficulty hearing God you are worshipping strange gods.

##### **(3) "...Open thy mouth wide, and I will FILL**

Philippians 4:19 puts it this way, "My God shall supply ALL your need according to His RICHES in glory by Jesus Christ."

##### **(4) Your Father God will, soon . . .**

- subdue your enemies
- come against those enemies
- bring even the unrighteous into submission to Himself
- give you the very best
- satisfy you

Father God is testifying unto us, saying, "I WILL DO THOSE THINGS IF YOU WILL HEARKEN UNTO ME AND WALK IN MY WAY (LIVE ACCORDING TO MY PLAN)."

God, our Father wants you and me and all His children to LIVE IN VICTORY. Amen?

In this lesson, our Father God would take us a step further as He reveals to us that His way for us - His plan according to which we are to live is THE WAY OF THE CROSS.

### **THE WAY OF THE CROSS**

Are you trying to live for Christ? Are having a hard time doing it? Do you know WHY you are having a hard time living for Christ? Why? Because if you are trying to live for Christ you are out of God's plan for your living.

God's plan according to which you are to live is NOT, you living for Christ; it is not you doing things for God; BUT, RATHER IT IS CHRIST LIVING THROUGH YOU: It is God working through you.

Galatians 2:20

The emphases is not on you living, BUT ON CHRIST LIVING: living His live through you.

God's plan (way) is THE WAY OF THE CROSS.

### **WHAT IS THE WAY OF THE CROSS?**

1. It is to know and understand that I, (the son of Adam, the old man, the man of sin, the sin nature) was crucified with Christ.

When you through the ministry of the Holy Spirit by faith received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you through the miracle of the new birth became a new creation - your old nature (sin nature) was crucified with Christ - you, the son of Adam, died - and he that is dead is freed from sin (Romans 6:7) you are no longer alive.

2. The way of the cross is to know and understand that the life which is now in us is not ours, but it is the life of the resurrected Jesus in us. Thus everything in us which is not Christ is Death.

Therefore, that which we in reality are trying to do when we try to live for Christ is to bring life out of death; it is trying resurrect the old man which is dead and buried, making him, the old man, live for Christ. This will not work now any more than before.

The reason the death and burial of the old man was necessary was because it was in total opposition to the ways of God. An enemy and hater of God; resisting always, rebelling against God and God's ways. That is the NATURE, character, essence of the OLD MAN. It cannot do other wise.

God did not take the old nature and restore it, or even begin a restoration process. BUT, rather "...old things are passed away." The old man is gone, crucified with Christ. Never to be restored, resurrected; it is dead and buried.

Now death only brings forth death never life; that's why when we fail in our attempts to live for Jesus, and fail we will, we become frustrated, hurt, angry, negative, critical of others, get under condemnation, feel, UNAPPRECIATED, etc.; it is death coming out of death.

Romans 7:19 says it this way:

**" . . . FOR THE GOOD THAT I WOULD I DO NOT; BUT THE EVIL WHICH I WOULD NOT DO, THAT I DO.**

We need to get it down deep into our hearts, we CANNOT do any thing for God. as the Word says, "ALL OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS IS AS FILTHY RAGS."

God's plan according to which we are to live is to crucify the self, so that God can do what He wants through us. Psalms 116:15 says,

**"PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD IS THE DEATH OF HIS SAINTS."**

**Matthew 16:24, "IF ANY MAN WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS AND FOLLOW ME."**

(a) deny self - not deny self of something, but deny self the right to exist

(b) take up cross - the cross is an instrument of execution - the flesh, the sin in us, the ways of the old man, SIN HABITS, self is to be put to death, EXECUTED.

Thus the way of God which will bring victorious living, IS THE WAY OF THE CROSS.

## **LESSON 2 -THE WAY OF THE CROSS (PART 2) - JESUS OUR EXAMPLE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 19, verses 37 and 38 we witness Jesus' triumphant into Jerusalem amid the praise and worship of the people.

Brothers and sisters, even as Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem that first Palm Sunday, I pray that He will find that same acceptance in your hearts as the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

You see, it is one thing to receive Jesus as your Savior and another to acknowledge and accept Him as your King, as the Lord of your life. Amen?

Palm Sunday sees Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem; But, it also, ushers in the last days of Jesus here on earth. Before this week would be finished, He would be betrayed by one of His disciple, rejected by the people, tried and executed by the Jewish High Court.

### **JESUS OUR EXAMPLE**

In this lesson we want to look closely at one of the events which took place during our Lord's last few days on earth and relate it to what we talked about in our last lesson entitled, THE WAY OF THE CROSS. This event took place in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-46 (44)).

Here in the Garden of Gethsemane we see Jesus in agony, praying:

**"Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me..."**

Jesus was looking ahead to the torturous death of the cross which was before Him and He was pleading with His Father to remove it.

Here in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus dying to Himself, dying to His soul's desires.

### **THE WAY OF THE CROSS FOR US IS TO DIE TO SELF.**

Thus we see here Jesus as our example in the putting down of the desires of the soul and becoming obedient to the will of the Father even unto the death of the cross (Philippians 2:8).

However, Jesus, like you and I, found that dying to self is hard and painful; but unlike you and I, He was able to totally accomplish this in the garden - accomplish a total and complete dying to self.

Let us understand, the agony and suffering of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane was REAL.

**Hebrews 5:7, "Who in the days of His flesh, when He offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears to Him that was able to save Him from death, and was heard in that He feared."**

Jesus as a man did not want, did not desire to suffer the accursed death that was before Him. He did not want to - BUT HE DID. AMEN.

**Why was it necessary for Jesus to die to Himself?**

Philippians 2:6-8

Hebrews 2:17-18

Hebrews 4:15

Hebrews 5:9

**WHY?** Because Jesus was a man, fully human, who had the same weaknesses and needs and temptations and desires as every other man, woman or child.

**WHY?** Because Jesus as a true man must be made perfect - He learned obedience by the things He suffered. So that, He would be able to be the author of eternal salvation.

You see, Jesus as a man, suffered, agonized over the temptations that Satan placed before Him. I have no doubt that like Eve, and all men, women and children since the time of Eve, the thought was in His mind to taste the forbidden fruit. But unlike Eve and every one since, **HE DID NOT YIELD, DID NOT GIVE IN TO THE TEMPTATION. HE SAID NO TO THE SIN.**

But you say, He was not born with a sin nature, so He was not compelled to sin. TRUE, Jesus did not have a sin nature, BUT neither did Adam and Eve have a sin nature until after they had sinned. The sin nature is not an inherent, **necessary, essential part of** the human nature. The sin nature is inherited.

But Jesus is God, therefore, He could not sin. TRUE. Jesus is God and God cannot sin. But Jesus was and still is a man, and as a man, according to His human nature it had to be possible for Him to sin. Otherwise, He would not have suffered, agonized over the temptation to sin.

**JESUS DID NOT MAKE USE OF HIS DIVINE NATURE WHEN HE RESISTED SIN, WHEN HE SAID NO TO TO THE TEMPTATION TO TASTE OF THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT.**

Secondly, we see in the above group of passages that Jesus had to learn obedience. Here then, we see the purpose behind our Father God allowing Adam and Eve, Jesus and us to be tempted by Satan. That we might learn to say NO to sin through obedience. This is His way of proving us.

**What does this mean for us?**

It means that now we who are the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus, we who are new creations, like Jesus are able to deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow Jesus.

You see, our Father does not expect anything of us that cannot be accomplished. In fact all things are made possible through Jesus Christ.

**END of Series**

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