

## Following Jesus and the Cross Centered Life Part 2

### 1 Peter 2:21-25

In our text today, he tells us of the very **essence** of Christian **Life**, pointing to Jesus and His **atoning work** on the cross as our model in all our living. In this he calls us once again to glorify God through honorable conduct in **everyday life** as we follow Jesus. As he had told us last time that sometimes we will **suffer according** to the **will of God**, today he tells us it is the essence of all our Christian Living, just like the patten Jesus gave us at the cross.

And this is the **main idea**, following Jesus is a **Cross Centered Life**, it is **cruciform** living. Living that is formed by Christ's **self-denial** at the **cross**, bearing up under unjust **suffering** to do the **will** of God. This is how we follow **Jesus**, who left us the ultimate **example** of **suffering** according to **God's will** at the **cross**. In calling us to follow **Christ's example**, we learn that the Christian life is a **Cross Centered Life**. This Cross Centered Life is both the **purpose** of our **calling**, and the **way** we **glorify God** in our everyday lives. Here we have a very rich text calling us to **follow Jesus**, just like our wise **Pastor Peter** learned himself in his days following Jesus.

Now in **Today's text 1 Peter 2:21-25**, we will see

- **V-2:21 – Called to follow Christ in suffering**
- **V-2:22-23 – Christ's example of patiently suffering for God's will**
- **V-2:24-25 – The Cross Centered Life**

seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. NASB

**Romans 8:16-18** - 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.** 18 For I consider that **the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.** NASB

Make no mistake, the Christian Life is not only one of **privilege** and **blessing**, but it is also one of **self-denial** and bearing one's own **cross**, the instrument of your own **death**, to follow Jesus. It is a **Cross Centered Life**.

**Philippians 1:29** - 29 **For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake,** not only to believe in Him, **but also to suffer for His sake,** NASB

**Romans 8:28** - 28 And we know that **God causes all things to work together for good** to those who love God, **to those who are called according to His purpose.** NASB

**1 Peter 5:8-10** - 8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 But resist him, firm in your faith, **knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.** 10 **And after you have suffered for a little while,** the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself **perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.** NASB

**Luke 9:23-24** - 23 And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, **let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.** 24 "For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. 25 "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself? 26 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. NASB

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15** - 14 For **the love of Christ controls us,** having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15 and He died for all, **that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.** NASB

**2 Corinthians 4:7-11** - 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and **not from ourselves;** 8 **we are afflicted in every way,** but not crushed; **perplexed,** but not despairing; 9 **persecuted,** but not forsaken; **struck down,** but not destroyed; 10 **always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.** 11 For we who live are **constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake,** that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18** - 16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. 17 **For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,** 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are

**Charles Spurgeon** comments; *“Doth that man love his Lord who would be willing to see Jesus wearing a crown of thorns, while for himself he craves a chaplet of laurel? Shall Jesus ascend to his throne by the cross, and do we expect to be carried there on the shoulders of applauding crowds? Be not so vain in your imagination. Count you the cost, and if you are not willing to bear Christ's cross, go away to your farm and to your merchandise, and make the most of them; only let me whisper this in your ear, " What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"* **End quote.**

**Isaiah 53:10-11** - 10 But **the Lord was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering,** He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand. 11 As a **result of the anguish of His soul,** He will see it and be satisfied; **By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities.** NASB

**Isaiah 53:5-6** - 5 But **He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities;** The chastening for **our** well-being fell upon Him, And by **His scourging we are healed.** 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But **the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.** NASB