

LIFESAVING PRINCIPLE

‘Whoever loses his **life** for me and for the gospel will save it.’ - Mark 8:31-38, John 12:23-26

Previously Satan had offered Jesus a shortcut to ‘success’ if he compromised. - Matthew 4:8-11

LIFE = psuche (referring to the soul or personality which includes the mind, will and the emotions. It does not refer to bios (physical life).

‘If anyone is desiring to come after me as a follower of mine, let him at once begin to **lose sight of himself and his own interests**, and let him at once begin to **take up his cross**, and let him start taking the same road in company with Me, and let him continue to do so moment by moment.’

Mark 8:34 - Wuest Greek translation

“Jesus asks for the only possession we have - ourselves. The gospel begins at the cross...with death.” - E. Stanley Jones

Apostle Paul - 2 Timothy 2:1-12 Soldiers endure hardship for the spiritual war (v. 2:3,10)

Jesus - Matthew 27:42 ‘He saved others...but He can’t save himself. He’s the King....’

Jesus could have avoided the cross (Matt. 26:53-54) but He could only save us by losing His life at the cross. He took the curse of our sins so that we could receive eternal blessings!

David Livingstone left a good future as a doctor in Scotland to go to Africa as a missionary. His brother chided him: ‘You can bury your life in the jungles among the heathen if you want to. I’m going to stay here in Britain and make a name for myself’. After a lifetime of work in Africa, David Livingstone’s body was buried in England in a royal funeral. His heart was buried in Africa. The Encyclopedia Britannica gives one sentence to David’s doctor brother. He is only mentioned as the brother of David Livingstone. Fourteen paragraphs are given for the life of David Livingstone!

Jesus said: ‘Blessed are the meek..... they shall inherit the earth.’ - Matt. 5:5

Meekness is a God-ward attitude. The meek **yield** and **totally submit** to God much like a wild horse who has been tamed to obey its master by his voice or touch of the reins. They are teachable and humbly accept the will of God. - Luke 1:38 (Mary), Numbers 12:1-3 (Moses)

Those who give up all their rights now get all later! - Hebrews 5:7-10; 12:2,7-11, In Bible times going **barefoot** was a symbol of being a slave with **no rights**. Look how God promises blessings of inheritance to them: Moses (Exodus 3:5,8). Joshua (Josh.1:3,4). Jesus **walked barefoot to the cross**. His inheritance is immense..... and we are included in it if we follow Him - Romans 8:17-18, 1 Cor. 3:21-22, Colossians 1:16. Jesus will reign over the earth for a thousand years of peace. He then hands it all back to His Father in an act of humility and submission. - 1 Corinthians 15: 24-25

* What rights do you cling to?

* How is God asking you to give up your life?