

# ***Personal/ Small Group Sermon Study***

## **Alive to sin? Or, alive to Christ? You can't be both.**

Week of October 11, 2020 A.D.

Jesus said, "The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life." Let us explore what that means in this lesson.

### **Read Philippians 3:10-11**

1. Please describe any suffering which you have experienced in your life. What enabled you to endure and to overcome that suffering? Did that suffering make you bitter or better? Please explain your answers.

### **Read 2 Corinthians 11:21-29**

2. In your opinion, could you personally endure the physical, mental, and emotional abuses which were experienced by Paul as described in these verses? Did Paul deserve to be exposed to such harsh suffering? If so, why? If not, why did Paul suffer as he did? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

### **Read Matthew 27:25-36**

3. In your opinion, could you personally endure the physical, mental, and emotional abuses which Jesus suffered as described in these verses? Did Jesus deserve to receive that abuse? If so, why? If not, why did Jesus receive that abuse? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

### **Read Isaiah 53:3-6**

4. These verses were written almost 700 years before the birth of Christ. Before Jesus left heaven to come to earth, did Jesus know the extent to which He would suffer physical abuse and rejection as a human? If not, why not? If so, why did Jesus still choose to become a man? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
5. Read verse 3. Why was Jesus despised, rejected, and not esteemed? How do you feel emotionally when you receive such treatment from other people? Do you voluntarily submit to such treatment? If so, why? if not, why not?
6. Read verses 5-6. What is the meaning of (a) transgressions? (b) iniquities? Are you guilty of transgressions and/or iniquities? If so, please list what they are. If you are not guilty of transgressions and/or iniquities, why not?

7. Do you have peace with God? If not, why not? If so, (a) please describe that peace, (b) how did you achieve that peace, (c) how is that peace evident in your relationship with God and in your relationships with other people? Please explain and state the details for each of your answers.

### **Read Philippians 3:10-11**

8. (a) Do you know Christ? (b) Do you know the power of His resurrection? (c) Do you know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings? (d) Do you want to become like Christ in his death? (e) Do you want to attain to the resurrection from the dead? For each question please explain the reasons for your answer.

### **Read John 12:23-26**

9. In your opinion, did the words of Jesus from John 12:23-26 have any influence on Paul's desire "to become like Christ in His death" as stated by Paul in Philippians 3:10? If not, why not? If so, why? Please explain your answers.
10. Please refer to verses 25 and 26. Must a person "follow Christ" in order to (a) be a Christian? (b) serve Christ? (c) have eternal life? (d) be honored by God? Please explain the reasons for each of your answers.

### **Read Colossians 3:1-4**

11. Do these verses apply to each and every person who claims to be a Christian? Why or why not? Please compare and contrast what it means to be (a) a Christian (b) a follower of Christ, and (c) a disciple of Christ.
12. Have all Christians (a) "been raised with Christ", (b) "died", and (c) received a "life which is hidden with Christ in God"? Please explain the reasons for each answer. Also, please explain how these verses from Colossians 3:1-4 compare and relate to the verses found in Philippians 3:10-11.

**Consider** : Jesus said, "The thief comes to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly." You think about that. Amen.