

Christianity Worth the Cost

2024.08.18 Morning Sermon in **Matthew 10:34–42**

³⁴“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to ‘*set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law*’; ³⁶and ‘*a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.*’ ³⁷He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. ⁴⁰“He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. ⁴¹He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward. ⁴²And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.”

Main idea: Christ brings great cost into the Christian’s life, but infinitely greater reward.

Introduction: False expectations... “do not think” ... how we think, what we expect, is important.

1. **The Consequences of the Christian life** (v34–36)

1. God has always been a dividing sword (cf. Mic 7:6), all the more so now that He has come in Christ
2. Peace with heaven will cost you peace with many on earth. Jesus came precisely so that those who are His would no longer belong to the world.
3. Believers’ belonging to Christ and allegiance to Him will make unbelievers turn against them and even persecute them.

2. **The Commitment of the Christian life** (v37–39)

1. Christ the first allegiance—this costs the most with those who are closest. You must be willing to lose them.
2. Love for even parents or children ought to be subsidiary to, and participant in, our love for Christ.
3. Your Christianity and your cross
 1. Your very own costs, assigned to you by your God and Redeemer

2. “Be ye converted!” You, yourself, are this cost. Your former nature, being your own, living for yourself.
 1. Keep all of these, and you will lose everything forever.
 2. Lose all of these to find them all newly in Him.
3. **The Compensation of the Christian life** (v40–42)
 1. You obtain all other Christians, Christ, and God Himself (cf. 19:27–29)... relations with them for whom Christ Himself is everything.
 2. The cost-benefit is amazing: a cup of cold water in exchange for blessedness in the living, triune God
 3. Whatever we lose, we mustn’t think that we have come out as losers (cf. 19:27–29)
 4. A hint at our reward: God Himself in Christ Himself (cf. v32)

Conclusion: Give all your allegiance to Christ, be willing to lose anything for Christ, and enjoy God Himself in Christ Himself as your increasingly great reward forever!

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Matthew 10 verses 34 through 42, these are the words of God. Do not think that I came to bring peace on. I did not. Come to bring peace. But a swart For, I have come to set a man against his father. A daughter against her mother. And the daughter-in-law.

Against her mother-in-law. And a man's enemies. Will be those of his own household. He who loves father or mother more than me. Is not worthy of me. And he who loves son or daughter more than me. Is not worthy of me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after me.

Is not worthy of me. He who finds his life. We'll lose it. And he, who loses his life for my sake. We'll find it. He who receives you receives me? He receives me receives him who sent me? He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet, shall receive a prophet's reward and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

And whoever gives one of these little ones, only a cup of cold water. In the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his Reward. Amen. My son's reading of God's inspired and inherent word. We Rejoice to know that he blesses to us the reading of it and the preaching of it unto his glory.

And his people's good. Please be seated.

Well, last Lord's Day morning, the children, who are paying good attention We're able to know. What the primary command of the passage was because in verses 24 through 33, we heard do not fear, do not fear, do not fear. And it's not difficult. Whether it is the word of God or your mom or your dad who is talking to you and they give you the same command three times in uh in short order.

It is not difficult to know what they are telling you to do and especially if they tell you three times that there is some urgency and if they say do not fear What are they concerned about that? You are going to be prone to fear and certainly as the Lord was sending his disciples out on their first solo training Mission.

As he's doing here in Matthew chapter 10, there is reason to fear Well. The passage that we have before us now begins with another command. Another prohibition. Do not think And when the Lord Jesus comes to us, and he says, do not think this way. What does that tell us?

That he knows about us even if we don't know it about ourselves. Is that we are prone to think in a mistaken way. And not only are we prone to think in a mistaken way, but that how we think, and what we think about these things makes a difference.

You know, sometimes. I have to. Laugh those who talk and told are blue in the face about application and what they really want for uh for application in preaching and it's a good thing. It's fine. It's right. It should be done is for different people in different places in life and different walks of life to be addressed from the word specifically maybe with some real life examples.

For what it looks like to. To do, or not do according to that word. In the nitty-gritty of But one of the main applications throughout the word of God is to how you think. Because we are created to be people who are controlled by our minds. You know, we're not designed to be controlled by our affections.

That's not how man is made. That's how unthinking man and the degradation of being given up to his sin. He is pulled about by his passions and emotions rather than thinking, rightly about God and thinking, rightly about his world and thinking rightly, even about ourselves teaches us to respond with our hearts.

And, with our Wills, What is going on one of the primary applications in every single portion of the word, whenever you come to read it in your secret worship, or consider it together in family worship and and the husband or the father is, is explaining the word of God to his family, or in the public Workshop.

One of the primary applications is to how we think How we think is important. And in this particular case, what we expect is important Jesus here is correcting in three areas of thought the first one As the consequences of the Christian Life. The consequences of the Christian Life, specifically, what difference is it going to make in your relationships?

The more Christian you become, Not the more Justified you become when you believe in Jesus you are made perfectly righteous with his own righteousness forever. When I say the more Christian you become, I mean the more your mind is conformed to Christ's mind. The more your character is conformed to Christ's character, the more your conduct is conformed to Christ's conduct.

What can you expect or what should you expect? Is the difference that that will make in your relationships and particularly your relationships with unbelievers? And so the Lord Jesus, corrects a false expectation about the consequences of the Christian Life in verses 34 through 36. And then he goes on in verses 37 through 39.

To correct a false idea about the amount of commitment. That must necessarily be involved in the Christian Life. The commitment of the Christian Life. In verses 37. Through 39. And, Very much. So the cost Of the Christian Life, but the commitment that is required in the Christian Life in verses 37-39 and then maybe the most subtle of all He corrects, false ideas or false expectations, that Believers may come to have about the compensation.

The compensation that we have in the Christian Life, I know. By the time that we printed the booklets, I still had the word cost in there for cost benefit. But as sometimes happens to finite men, finally, Landed upon the word I was looking for compensation. And we'll visit their chapter.

19 with Peter. Um, Who makes the very mistake that we are likely to make and that Jesus is helping us against in verses 40 through 42, So first a false expectation about the consequences of the Christian Life, do not think that I came to bring peace on Earth. I did not.

Come to bring peace. But a sort, Now, the Lord Jesus is returning. One day. He is returning bodily. And there will be a new heavens and a new Earth. That is earthy. And it will be filled with people. And they will all be at peace with God and at peace with one another.

But that takes two things. That takes for Jesus to save everyone. And for Jesus to destroy from the earth. Anyone who hasn't been saved? And the Lord. Jesus has not done that yet. He said that he would do it soon. And soon now has been two thousand years. When he hadn't done it for some 30 or 40 years at the time, that Peter was writing his letters Peter had to write to those who had been challenged by unbelievers, where is the promise of his coming?

He said he was coming soon now. It's been so long that That the time between when Jesus had ascended into heaven and when Peter wrote that is, is now a rounding error on how long it's been. But the answer is the same that God is not slow as some count slowness.

He is unwilling that the last one of those for whom he died would perish. And so, since he is still gathering in those for whom Christ died, he has not yet returned. And for that reason, The Lord Jesus has not destroyed, all of his enemies. But in a time in which not all are saved and the enemies are not destroyed.

We will not have peace. On the Jesus did not come to bring peace on the earth. But a sword. Praise God. He brings peace to the And when the church is not at peace with herself when we are not peace, not at peace with one another, there is something very wrong.

You remember, in Ephesians chapter 2 and the Apostle was talking about how God killed the enmity between Sinners and God through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. He also killed the enmity between themselves and one another How could two men be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and not be reconciled to one, another not be brought together.

And so the church is definitely to expect and work for and address peace within herself. But God himself has been a dividing sword. Ever since Genesis chapter 3, When he promised that there would be enmity between the seed of the woman. And the seed of the serpent, Between those who are called by the name of God and being saved by the grace of God.

And those who remain in themselves, remain in their sin. Remain in the death. That sin brought us into in our first father, Adam. And there is that division between them because the one are reconciled to God and have been saved. Even while they were still enemies. This great display of the love of God for us in Christ that Christ died for his enemies.

And while we were still sinners Christ died for us, When we come to before, God. But that's the only way. That a sinner is brought to to the place where he is for God. Otherwise everyone is against God. They see the truth about him but they want to be their own God.

They don't want to acknowledge and have the one who created us as their purpose, maybe you are still in that condition. You want your life to be about you? Maybe you don't even acknowledge that. There's a Creator, you say it with your lips when you're around, good God-fearing folk, Christian folk.

But you're that fool that the Bible talks about, who in your heart. You say there's no God because the way you think about your day and the way you feel about your circumstances, and the choices that that you make the desires, that you have the things that you find enjoyable.

All of those things say that you are God. And so, in your heart, You don't say that God is God, but that you are God, and this is not something that you're immune to. In the church, it becomes all the more dangerous. In Micah chapter 7 when God is addressing.

Remnant, and he's urging them not to put their trust in in the members of their own household and Father, or the daughter, or the mother, or the daughter-in-law, or the Mother-in-law. That's where Jesus is quoting from in in verse 35. God was telling his people that the more you are for him.

The more you belong to him by faith in the Savior for them. The promised Messiah for us, the Messiah who has come and the more he changes, how you think, and how you feel, and how you choose and what you desire, and what your priorities are. The more alienated, you will be the more estranged.

You will be from those who do not have the same way of thinking and feeling and choosing and Desiring and delighting. In your own house. God has always been a dividing sword. And he is all the more, so, Now that he has come in Christ. You remember the prophecy that Mary received?

When she had brought the baby. Her baby Jesus to the temple. That a sword would Pierce her heart. Because he would be for the rising and the falling of many in Israel. And there have been many mother's Hearts. That have been continued to be pierced these two thousand years.

Because in churches where not, everyone is saved. And that is every church Although the Lord gives us instruction and church discipline, and the means of his grace and doing, according to his word, and dependence upon his Spirit, we hope that churches will become more pure, not less pure, and that more of them will be converted.

But in churches where not everyone is saved and In households where not everyone is saved. Or even when. Vastly different places in their Christian maturity. Christ is the cause of the rising and falling of many. In the church.

You see, Jesus gives you peace with heaven. But the piece that he gives you with heaven, Will cost you peace with many who are on Earth. And so he says, do not think that I came To bring peace on Earth. I did not. Come to bring peace. But a sort, If you're thinking about a church, Do not think that the more christ-like and cross Christ-loving and brother loving, and even neighbor, loving and enemy, loving that, your church becomes The more your neighbors and the more your enemies will love your church.

There will be things about you that they find admirable. But your primary identity, This complete allegiance to the Living. God this Devotion, to the truthfulness of his word, the

exclusive claims of Christ, the objective morality of his law, not just for you, not your truth but the truth Not your morality or your values.

But true morality and right values. Oh, that will create enmity. That will not give you peace. In the neighborhood that will not give you peace. With your enemies. And so you shouldn't expect it. You're belonging to Christ and especially Especially your increasing allegiance to him. Will make unbelievers turn against you.

And even persecute you. Sadly, it will do that even with Those who profess F. But are trying to have just enough of Jesus, not to make trouble. That brings us to. Not just wrong ideas about the consequences of the Christian Life for our relationships. But, Commitment of the Christian Life.

He who loves father and mother more than me is not worthy of me. He says, And he who loves son or daughter more than me. Is not worthy of me. Or to put it another way. In light of verse 35, and verse 36, that we've just come from The way that the Christian Life properly, The way that walking with Christ being united to him, Belonging to him and him belonging to you properly.

Is that you are willing to lose. The love of your children for his sake. Or you are willing to lose. Even the love of your parents. For his sake. That the more that your heart and mind and therefore your life Gets conformed to Christ. You are praying. You are Desiring.

You're employing. His means And hope that your children's lives will be more conformed to him. To his that your children's Minds, your children's desires, the things that your children enjoy will be more conformed to his But you are knowing. That this may not be the case, or it may not come at the same Pace.

And the more zealous you are for him, the more devoted you are to him. You know, as you come to the realization that mornings and evenings were invented by God for the worship of God. That God did not observe mornings and evenings during the creation week because he needed a break at the end of the day or because he needed to get going at the beginning of the day.

Just, as he did, not keep, he did not consecrate the Sabbath, the seventh day, because he needed a rest after those six days of creating, No, the Sabbath was created for man. That we by his design would find our rest in him would find our purpose in him, would find out to lighten him.

So that whenever we enjoy rest that he gives us by way of the creation or enjoy work that he gives us to do. In the creation. We're enjoying rest in him who has given it to us and we're doing the work as unto him and for his glory in it.

Well, he lays claim to your mornings and evenings. That you would begin the day with him. That you would end the day with him. This was to be restored in the Covenant family, the Covenant household and Deuteronomy 6. The house that as it were was to to have the word of God on its gate and on its doorpost.

God's word would Define and shape the household. Where they didn't just they weren't just to have God's word in their heart and on their lips and discussing him having relationship with him and how we see everything and how we do everything wherever they were, when they went out when they came in.

But there were stated times that God had created for that. When you lie down and when you rise up, Now, if, if you're in a household where there's resistance to that, you've felt it. You felt it. That resistance. And you come and you say I have to be willing, you have to be willing To lose.

Not necessarily the love of father and mother entirely and every time you do have to be willing to lose that. But, you have to be willing for them to be annoyed with you. Often Christians who are not mature and who are perhaps, backsliding. It is annoying. It is irritating to have those who are Godly to have those who are warm and zealous and devoted to God with them.

And they often don't say, oh, I'm so thankful. My dear son, or my dear daughter? They should. And God being merciful to them, they will. But they, they don't always say, oh, I'm so thankful that you want to have. Prayer in the morning as a family and family worship.

Before we get started with our day and that you don't want for us as a family to just Disperse. Uh, at at night but to conclude the day. And the worship of God and our knees in prayer to him together. It is difficult in a family where people love worldly pleasure.

To have one or two or more in the family, who come to have their pleasure more and more in God. Where amusements are set aside. For the enjoyment, not just of worshiping him, but having the family's Fellowship in him, It is difficult that way in congregations sometimes. Where families have kind of slouched into the lowest common denominator.

And there's not the love of God in Christ Jesus, and there's, there's not delighting him in in him and Desiring him, controlling the whole family's life. And then you you come together as a church and what happens? Even on the Lord's day even with a good confession about what the Lord's Day is set apart for and what we should be doing and the types of conversations we should be having We slouch.

Into those things that amuse us and entertain us and interest us. More than God himself.

And so there can be this idea. That you can be saved. But you can have. Just enough of Jesus. Or just enough salvation. That it doesn't rub people the wrong way. That you not be so fanatical for Christ. That you not be so zealous. About him. That you not love his law and his Commandments.

Those changes that he makes and Whom he's actually. Saving. And so, he nips that in the butt, he cuts us off. Lest we go that direction and he says he who loves father or mother, more than me is not worthy of me. And he who loves son, or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

He's not saying that you need to love him enough to earn belonging to him. The the language not worthy of me here is talking about that which is, uh, that which is fitting, that which is suitable, that which is the way the Christian Life actually works. He's describing the change that he actually makes in those who are saved and those who have him.

And so he adds to it verse 38 and he who does not take his cross and follow after me, is not worthy of me. You see what he's saying? He's saying. This is what it looks like to be a Christian. It looks like. Whatever Christ costs, you You are willing.

To pay that cost whatever, commitment to him, wholehearted entire commitment, to him costs. You you lay it out, he's worth it to you. Growing in him is worth it to you.

And particularly verse 38. He who does not take his cross and follow after me. Is not worthy. Of me. No, it's not just a cross. It's not just saying. You have to be willing to suffer for Jesus and to die for Jesus. That's true. But it's your cross. Who does not take his cross.

Now, there's some encouragement in that. There's the reminder that whatever it is that you end up suffering has been selected for you by your creator, by Your Redeemer. I don't have your cross. You don't have your sister's cross or your brother's cross. Each of us have as it were our own cross.

And so there's the there's the knowledge that God has appointed for you. What you experience as a Christian. And if he who loved you and he who did not spare his own son, but gave him up for you, has given you. This particular trouble. You this particular trial, you, this particular conflict or tension with a son or daughter or a mother, or father Who perhaps is not as zealous for Christ.

And zealous for the difference that he makes in the Christian Life. As he has brought you to me, but he has appointed that for you. But the other aspect of the Of the fact that it's he who does not take his cross. Is what's going to happen? With that cross the picture that he's using the metaphor that he's using, is one that is familiar to them.

And it's one that because the Lord Jesus. At least until his body gave out under it. Because he bore his cross. Is a picture that should be familiar to you too. You carry your cross because you die. On that cross. You cannot have Jesus Christ. And remain alive. You cannot have Jesus Christ and keep The life that you had apart from him.

You cannot have Jesus Christ and be the same person that you were apart from him. Belonging to Jesus Christ. Means that who you were. Is. And you are an entirely new person, that is no longer. In yourself or belonging to yourself or for yourself. Believing in. Jesus Christ. Is to believe in Jesus Christ, is to come out of being in yourself and to be in Jesus Christ.

It is to come from belonging to yourself and to belong entirely to Jesus Christ. It is to come out and from living for yourself. And to live entirely for the Lord. Jesus Christ. There is no. Halfway measure. Like the Kid, who sat behind me in Spanish spring semester junior year of high school?

I don't know. 30-second conversation left such an impression to me. Someone had died and Someone else had said that the person had died slowly, And, This young man, his name is Mark. Said, why do they say that? No one dies slowly. You're alive! You're alive! You're alive! You're alive!

You're alive! You're alive! You're alive. You're dead.

There are no half measures. For being dead. You cannot be. Half of who you are. And half of who you are going to be Now, don't you remember? Which on the baptizer came preaching and in chapter 3 and what Jesus came preaching, be he convert it, have your mind completely changed, that's the word repent.

There means not change your opinions about things, but have your mind have who you are changed for. The Kingdom of Heaven, is at hand Jesus says, He who does not take his cross and follow after me, he is not worthy of me. He who finds his life will lose it.

If you're trying to find a way to retain the pleasures that you have apart from Christ, the desires that you have apart from Christ. Is there some way that I can just christianize the priorities that I have right now? Just get myself enough of Jesus to be forgiven enough of Jesus to be saved.

And maybe christianize the different things that I enjoy. The most, the different things that I desire, the different things, things that I live for get just enough of Jesus, that, that those things don't have to change. Just feel a little bit different. Or maybe I I changed my behavior a little bit in the midst of it.

Jesus says, no. Trying to keep your former life trying to keep your former self. Trying to be just barely Christian enough that you don't lose. Relationships and friendships and they don't turn against you. And they don't start to despise you or at least not enjoy you and pretty soon drift far away from you and forget about you.

Or even persecute you and turn others against you or even turn you over in a hostile world or a hostile Church to be condemned like we heard about a couple passages ago. If you are trying to have just enough of Jesus, for that to not happen to you, you will lose your life.

You will not have him at all.

Either Christ has all of you. Or you do not have Christ at all, that's what he's saying. But don't be afraid. Don't be afraid to lose. That pleasure that you had taken so much Delight into this. Do you think you're going to have less pleasure in the Living, God, the ever blessed God who made all things?

As he changes your heart so that you desire, your glory and informs your mind, so that, you know, his glory and ministers himself to you, by your spirit, so that you experience Do you think that that Earthly worldly enjoyment is going to be able to hold a candle? To enjoying the Living God himself.

So, he says, He who loses his life for my sake. Yes, you may lose. Father, or brother, or mother or sister. You may lose houses and lands. You may lose all of that for your, for his sake. But he says, he who loses his life, for my sake, will find it.

You have not the same life. Praise God. Not the same life. That you're so afraid to lose. But Eternal. And infinitely better. Life. He who loses his life. For my sake, will find it. And that brings us. To correcting wrong thinking about the compensation of the Christian Life. We've already headed this.

Direction and in some measure and making application previously. But there can be this idea. Yes, we understand. That we must lose everything. Well yeah, you must lose such as is incompatible with Christ and as opposed to him, And yes, that may be loved ones that you love dearly. But who?

Honestly or not good for you. Because they don't love him. And they don't belong to him. Their desires. Their enjoyments. Their habits, their priorities. The way they want to spend time the way they want to spend words and conversation. They do not help you into, he They do not help you grow in Christ and be conformed to him.

And so you must not think that you are giving up so much for Jesus. And you're just going to be compensated a little bit. Pie in the Sky by and by You know, our flesh likes to think that way, we want to be the hero we want to be the Savior.

We want a religion in which we atone for ourselves. We make these great resolutions to walk in this great morality and do these great works. And among them are going to be these great sacrifices that you lose these wonderful pleasures and these wonderful relationships, you lose all these things.

This is what I gave up for Jesus. And that brings us to Peter. As we mentioned. If you have a copy of the word of God open to Matthew 10, you should. Take you too long to find chapter 19. Remember the The Rich Young Ruler comes and Uh, he's not converted.

He is not repenting. He is not repented because the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. He's close to the kingdom. He understands a lot about the difference that Christ will make Loving. Uh, loving God and keeping his Commandments and and that sort of thing. But Jesus. Uh, remember. It tells him to To lose everything to be willing to lose everything for Christ's sake.

If you want to be perfect. Go sell what you have. And this is verse 21. Give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven, and come follow me. He tells him, here's the exchange. Give up all this Earthly stuff that you have. And have Jesus now on Earth and Heaven and all its treasure later.

Now the this this young Rich, Young Ruler, he's a bad investor because he's not able to do the cost benefit analysis. Evidently He has much love for his many, great possessions. In verse 22, young man heard the saying he went away sorrowful for. He had great possessions. Then Jesus said, to his disciples, assuredly, I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of heaven.

Again, I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of the needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. When that his disciples heard it, they were Greatly astonished. And saying who then can be saved, Jesus looked at them and said to them, with men, this is impossible.

But with God, all things are possible. Then Peter answered and said to him, Peter is actually doing pretty good here. He realizes that Jesus is saying the grace of God can make you willing to lose everything else to gain Christ. But he's just a little bit off. Peter says says to him see we have left all and followed you.

Therefore What shall we have? He'd already answered his own question. We have left. And followed you. What do you mean? Therefore, what shall we have you have him. You have Christ. He's asking, of course, about the treasure in heaven as well. You know, he's, he's a little bit better at this long-term investment idea than the Rich Young Ruler was But listen to how Jesus answers.

So Jesus said to him, assuredly, I say to you. That in the Regeneration. When the son of man sits on the throne of his glory, you have followed me will also sit on 12 Thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel and everyone. Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters, or father, a mother, or wife or children, or lands for my name's sake.

Shall receive a hundred fold. And, Inherit. Eternal life. And then, One of the parallel passages, he says a hundred fold in this life.

You see? Yes, you may. You may lose and you may have strain with members of your own household. But you'll also have other believers. He who receives you? Receives me and he who receives me? Receives him who sent me? Remember they're still just about to be sent on this little training mission.

Jesus is telling them. You may you may lose father or child, you may lose parent or child for my sake but you're going to gain Those who love you with the love that they have for Christ. You're going to gain those who love you with the love that they have for God.

You're gonna meet people perhaps, even from a completely different culture. But by the Holy Spirit, applying the word of God to them, they have found God in Jesus Christ. And in Jesus Christ, they have been reconciled to you and you run into you run into a brother, barely speaks your language or you barely speak his and you have almost nothing else in common.

You find out that one another are Christians. And suddenly you are receiving and welcoming one another, with a Zeal and a love and a delight in one another that no earthly friendship or association, even families, don't have for one another. Because it doesn't come out of that new life and in Christ and that new love for Christ that the spirit works and Those whom he is redeeming.

And so, do not think that your compensation is small by comparison and do not think that your compensation is late by comparison. It is not pie in the Sky by, and by It is God himself in Christ himself now and it is all of your brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Jesus Christ. Now, who love you with a generosity? That is greater even than many blood relatives have for one another. He who receives you receives me? He receives Me receives him who sent me. He says, He who receives the prophet in the name of a prophet, shall receive a prophet's reward.

What does a prophet a prophet is one who speaks, who has been sent by the Lord to speak on behalf of the Lord. It's still for the Lord's sake. He who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous, man. Well, how are how is that, man? Righteous?

It's through faith in Jesus Christ. It's by the righteousness of God, in Jesus Christ received by faith. Received the righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's Lord. Whoever gives one of these little ones, only a cup of cold water. In the name of a disciple.

Assuredly, I say to you. You shall by no means lose his reward. So you don't just obtain. All other Christians as family. You don't just obtain Christ himself, you obtain, God himself in Christ himself, and he, he urges us by the language, in verse 42, to make this cost benefit analysis correctly.

He says. Whoever gives one of these little ones only. A cup of cold water and the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward. You see how even the phrasing, even the vocabulary that he uses tells you? You cannot understand how small the sacrifice of the Christian Life is.

In comparison to how great the compensation of the Christian life is That you have him and you don't just have him later. He's already hinted at this you know because of the time that it takes to understand and explain and apply all these things, we don't do you know huge passages but we're really only 10 or 15 well, maybe 30 or 40 seconds past verse 32.

Therefore whoever confesses me before men him, I also will confess before. My father who is in heaven. Do you remember from last week that that's not just in the future that Jesus Christ, even now always lives to intercede for us? That he is able to save us for the uttermost because by the power of his indestructible life, this is what he is doing even now as we hear preaching, and as we preach, and as we worship him, he is interceding for us.

The reward is God himself in Christ himself. And so you and I must not fall into that that attitude of Peter as well, informed, as a lot of it was and is given by grace as a lot of it was, I have lost so much for you. Lord, what then, shall I have?

You have received God. In Christ and together with him all who love him even as we just heard, John was able to write to that church and he says, oh I love you in truth. Dear elect lady. It's a church. He addresses them in the plural in the In the second half of the, the reading.

He says oh I love you in truth. You know, who else loves you in truth? Everyone who knows God and Christ everyone who has life in Christ. How does he know that? Because when God Saves someone, he saves them by Union with Christ, he begins, conforming them to the mind and heart of Christ.

You're never alone. If you're a Believer, You might even be the alone believer in your home. Or maybe if the Lord is laying hold of your life, and you are coming into a new season of delight in him and Devotion to him, that others can't understand. You might be alone in that in your house but you are not alone.

You have got himself. You have Christ himself. And to the extent that other believers are being conformed, more and more to Christ so that they welcome you for his sake. You have all of them too. You cannot lose so much for Jesus that you come out as a loser for Jesus.

You cannot lose so much for Christ. That what you have as compensation in him, doesn't dwarf? Whatever it is that you lose or have lost. Now, that's a way of thinking. That we need to be conformed to And perhaps it's a way of thinking. That doesn't control doesn't operate in the Forefront of your mind day by day.

Like it should. But that's what the Lord has brought you to hear his word preached for That he by his. Would write the truths of his word on your heart. And he would make you not expect that everyone's gonna like you. Or like your church or like your family.

Or like you individually? And we would guard you against from thinking that you need to back off on your commitment to Jesus. And just just enough Christ that it's not disruptive. And perhaps, especially That he would open your eyes to see how great. Is the compensation that you have in it.

Give all of your allegiance to Christ. Be willing to lose anything. That has to be lost for his sake. So that you may enjoy God himself. In Christ himself. And have everything else in heaven and on Earth, be yours. But God himself and CR in Christ himself as your increasingly great reward forever.

Amen, let's pray.

Lord Jesus. We thank you. We thank you that as our King. You not only subdue us, but you Exerts your power in. Priesthood, as you consecrate us, and And your office as profit as you teach us and write your word on our hearts, by your spirit. To subdue us to your will.

To conform us to your character. And we thank you that. In this. Great war that there. Be as long as there. Are those Who are against you in their hearts. That we know that you shall Prevail. And at the last, there will be no enemies remaining. Not even any enmity in our own Hearts, from our former Natures.

And so we pray that in your kingly power, you would rule over us. That you drool over our hearts and you'd continue to carry out the expansion of your kingdom as you gather in Those whom you have redeemed. Until the last day comes, There are no Sinners left and there's no sin left in And there is peace on Earth.

But give us O Lord to delighten you now. Oh, forgive us for how? We have sometimes been like asaph and Considered ourselves poorly compensated. Dreadful Dreadful, o God, our remaining sin. And the way that we sometimes, think about you, And we thank you and praise you for your patience.

And persisting with us. Come and help us in your power. Grant that we would lose entirely. Who and what we were apart from you. So that we might find entirely. Our life in you. We ask even in your own precious name. Lord Jesus. And your people in this place.

Say, Amen.