

“Follow in His Steps”

Intro: The Bible says, “_____ are the afflictions of the righteous; ...” (Ps 34:19). And, Jesus said, “Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also _____ you; ...” (John 15:20). It is no wonder then that Jesus said, “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. “For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the _____, ...” (Luke 14:27-28).

A. The calling to follow after Christ cannot be taken lightly as if it will only bring us ease and comfort, but we must _____ the cost for along with the blessings there is a price to pay. Yet, as we consider the cost of following Christ let us not forget what Paul said in 2 Cor 4:17, “For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of far _____ all comparison, ...”

1 Peter 2:21-25

I. “For you have been _____ for this _____ ...”

A. Having been called to submit to governing authorities who will not always treat us right, and to masters who might falsely accuse us, we are called to _____ to the Lord who is perfect in righteousness. Submitting to His _____ is the _____ for which He called us.

II. “Christ also _____ for you.”

A. This is sufficient reason for those who suffer unjustly to bear it with patience. The Lord who calls us to patiently endure unjust suffering for His name’s sake is the same Lord who _____ unjustly suffered _____ that we might be saved!

III. Christ is our _____. We must _____ in His steps.

A. The word translated “example” literally means “_____.” In ancient days it referred to a pattern that was placed under something and then traced. Greek children would learn to write their ABC’s by tracing such an example. Polycarp wrote, “for [Christ] gave us this model example in His own person.” Christ is our example. We are to _____ or _____ our lives after Him by following in His footsteps.

IV. Christ committed _____, _____ was any _____ found in His mouth.

A. The example of Christ is one of _____. Jesus lived a sinless life and so _____ we live our lives “[abstaining] from fleshly lusts ... [keeping our] behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander [us] as evildoers, they may on account of [our] good deeds, as they observe them, in the day of visitation.”

B. The example of Christ is one of _____ suffering. We are _____ to be _____ of sin so that if we suffer, we suffer unjustly.

C. The example of Christ is one of _____. for when reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered _____. We are to be a people who _____ our enemies.

D. The example of Christ is one of _____ Himself to the Father.

1. The word "entrust" means: "to deliver over or up to the power of someone." It is to _____ oneself over to the power of another. To _____ your rights, your health, your safety, your family, your finances to another for them to do with as it _____. It is the attitude and spirit of the soul that says, "Though God slay me, _____ will I trust Him."

2. Christ _____ entrusting Himself to the Father. ... He _____, in an ongoing never ceasing manner kept entrusting Himself to Him to judges justly.

3. Let us trace our lives after Christ in this - that we would be a people who continuously, in matter after matter, in situation after situation, _____ ourselves to our Heavenly Father who, as a matter of fact, _____ righteously.

E. The example of Christ is one of suffering _____ for our sake.

1. With that same _____ we must be willing to suffer whatever our Lord calls us to for _____ name's _____.

V. We must _____ to sin and _____ to righteousness! And here is righteousness: offering up the acceptable sacrifice of patiently enduring unjust persecution. Here is righteousness: in suffering unjust persecution we proclaim the excellencies of God by _____ up and not reviling in return, nor uttering a threat, but simply _____ ourselves to Him who judges righteously.

A. Why should we live to righteousness? Because it was by the _____ that He suffered on our behalf that we were _____ - that is, from sin being brought out of darkness and into His marvelous light.

VI. Though at one time we were straying like sheep, lost in sin and children of wrath, now we have come to Christ and have _____, for He is the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls.

A. Here is our comfort: the _____ us, we only follow in His steps.

B. He, beloved, our Shepherd is also the _____ of our soul. What have we to fear for the Lord watches over our soul! Jesus said, John 6:37 & 40, "All that the Father gives Me _____ come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. ... 40 "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself _____ him up on the last day." He is the Guardian of our soul.

Closing: Though, beloved, we would rather not walk through the various trials of this world, and though we would rather not suffer unjust persecutions, our Lord asks us only to _____ His example, following in His steps. Let us follow as we _____ ourselves to Him who judges righteously, counting it a joy and privilege to be counted _____ to suffer shame for His sake! In so doing, we offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God by _____ the excellencies of the God who saves us.

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