

## To die for ...

- (Matthew 16:24–27 ESV) Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.”

### IS IT WORTH DYING FOR?

Jesus calls us to die, so before we go any further let's take some time and face the question. Is it worth dying for? Is it worth giving up everything to have the way of life that Jesus offers? Jesus says it is and calls us to do that very thing. Do we believe him?

### THE BARE MINIMUM ...

The bare minimum we take away from this text is that God is telling us that the life he offers is dramatically different than the life we would choose. Christ calls us to “say no to the things we want” and to say “yes” to whatever he wants for the rest of our lives - “pick up our crosses every day.” We struggle with this in a few ways as this calls us from the familiar to the unknown, challenges our control and runs contrary to our social sub-structure, as in this is not the norm, not what most professing Christians believe experientially.

### BUT LIFE WITH JESUS IS ANYTHING BUT THE NORM.

The norm is that you read your Bible, go

to church, tithe, keep your nose clean and God will enhance the life you have chosen. It might not be what we say, but it is what many believe.

### ENHANCED LIFE OR A TRANSFORMED LIFE?

But that is not what God says, and we still have our question on the board. Is what God offers that good that we should give up everything? Maybe we should ask, Is he Lord or not? The new life Jesus purchased for us with his shed blood surpasses anything we could dream or imagine, but the offer is not to enhance our lives but to make us new. The reason that many do not have the abundance Christ speaks of is because they are trying to squeeze the riches of grace out of the material of the old life instead of wearing the garment of salvation. Religion can happen in the church pew, but transformation only happens on the path. Only there do we find the “yes” we have been looking for.

### A CLEARLY DEFINED PATH ...

Our choice is to die or pretend, and the path he calls us to is a holy path. God will “have no truck” with our mixing and blending. Only by our willingness to die, by our willingness to believe that God is as good as he says he is, will we be able to push past pretend to the amazing abundance that was unlocked on a cross outside of Jerusalem about 2,000 years ago. [Scott, David (2010-06-22). *Beyond Pretend: A Sheep's Guide to the Universe!* (Kindle Locations 1236-1237). Kindle Edition.]



## CONQUER THE BEAST OR CURSE GOD?

### OUR MOVE\*

**\*SPECIAL NOTE:** Participation on the board is time-sensitive as qualifying moves are no longer valid after the time of your death. So please note the urgency. Any meaningful moves on the board must be made while you are still living on the planet.