

## ***In On It To Death, Part One***

"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me."

### **TO BEGIN:**

- To be a church that loves God's project, we need to be (mostly) people that do.
- If 100 of us did, that would be great!!!

What Wesley said...

"Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin, and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on earth."

- So dozens and dozens of us here should be saying in our hearts,
  - "Yes!!! I do. I love God so much --- with so much of my heart --- that I love what He is doing in the world with all my heart!!!"
  - A. And some of us have been like that for years. *(So we should look after it!)*
  - B. And some of us are just becoming like that. *(So we should develop it!)*
  - C. And some of us need to change pretty significantly *(And we should go for it!)*.
- And then we will be a church worth being... fruitful! (Ephesians 3:20,21!!!)
- And then dozens and dozens of us will be in on the abundant life that we are called to live... that Christ died to make happen.

### **TODAY:**

Speaking of death, we ALL need to know that this abundant life has a death clause attached to it.

[ **Luke 9:23:** An agreement to die...]

- I. **Becoming a Christian, that is, regeneration, is a sort of death**
  - As depicted in baptism (Wednesday, November 2 is the next Baptism Bible Study)
  - N.B. The whole thing ends in death as well. Glorification as death. But for that matter, everything ends in death!

### **Luke 9:18-24**

And it happened that while He was praying alone, the disciples were with Him, and He questioned them, saying, "Who do the people say that I am?"

They answered and said, "John the Baptist, and others say Elijah; but others, that one of the prophets of old has risen again."

And He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered and said, "The Christ of God."

But He warned them and instructed them not to tell this to anyone, saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day."

And He was saying to them all, **"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.** For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*: "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die"

Jim Elliott, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."



Next time.... October 30<sup>th</sup>

II. Becoming a mature Christian, that is sanctification, is a sort of death