

“He is no fool who gives up what he can not save, to gain that which he can not lose” –Jim Elliot—

I. THE TRUE GOSPEL IS THE ONLY PATH TO SELF-DENIAL

- A. Are we embracing self-denial or are we just plain in denial?
- B. The insanity of the human soul is our relentless attempt to preserve a reputation, and our short frail life.
- C. In short, we resist applying the cross daily to Gods process of changing us. Jesus calls this ‘mans interests’.
- D. **Mark 8:31-38**

II. THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF CHOOSING TO BE ‘FIRST’ WHILE YOU FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER PEOPLE IN THE GOSPEL.

- A. **Mark 9:30-37**
- B. **Mark 10:23-31**

III. THE POSSIBILITY OF CHOOSING TO BE ‘LAST’ WHILE YOU FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER PEOPLE IN THE GOSPEL.

- A. **Philippians 2:3-5**
- B. **James 3:13-18**
- C. **1 Corinthians 13:4-8**
- D. **1 Corinthians 16:8-9,13,14**

IV. A TRUE EXCHANGE OF HUMILITY AMONG BELIEVERS

- A. Taking up our cross daily is how we display loves way of ambition in the gospel, a true exchange of humility among believers. This is how we display a vibrant witness to unbelievers. They are provided with a stark contrast to the interests of man in this present evil age.
- B. **John 13:31-35**
- C. Embracing this ‘cross-cess’ is all about perceiving God’s righteousness. It is a continual laying aside of self-righteousness and any boast we may seem to be worthy of. In essence what we might consider assets, and credentials in the temporal suddenly become liabilities. Whatever would hinder a growing revelation in the rich knowledge of Jesus is considered your worst enemy. This is our anti-boast.
- D. **Philippians 3:1-4:3**