

THE COST OF BEING A CHRISTIAN

Scripture:

2 Samuel 24:24

Introduction

The principle expressed here is that it costs us personal sacrifice to maintain a relationship with God.

Salvation has always been free, but many times there is a high cost of maintaining that relationship.

I. The cost to Christ

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold...

But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

1 Peter 1:19-20

- A. His divine attributes
- B. His heavenly glory
- C. It made him become sin for us
- D. It caused personal suffering
- E. Death in disgrace

II. The cost to the saints and martyrs

Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Peter-- Crucified Upside Down
Andrew-- Crucified on X cross
James-- Beheaded
John-- Boiled in Oil, Squeezed
Jude-- Martyred in Persia
Phillip-- Martyred in Hierapolis

Bartolomew-- Flayed to death
Matthew-- Martyred
Thomas-- Shot by arrows at prayer
Simon Zebedee-- Crucified
James the less-- Crucified or thrown from
a pinnacle
Paul-- Beheaded

II. The cost to the saints and martyrs

Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

Others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

(Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

Hebrews 11:23-28

A. They committed all to Christ

B. The personal cost of that commitment was severe

III. The cost to you

I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service....

Romans 12:1

A. To fully follow Christ, it will cost you every thing

B. Satan will offer a less costly way

Conclusion

What has it cost you to follow Christ?
Have you been unwilling to give sacrificially of your time, self, possessions?