

Thomas Carlyle  
(writer, historian)

“Nothing is more  
terrible than activity  
without insight.”

Our personal peace  
in this world rests with:

**Our perceptions**

which shape

**Our expectations**

which shape

**Our responses**

to God, others, self, and circumstances.

If you have dug yourself into a hole,  
**stop digging.**

If you are going through bad  
circumstances,  
**keep going.**

God does not promise us a smooth ride,  
**just a safe landing.**

For Christians everything is O.K.  
in the end.

**If it's not O.K. it's not the end.**

### **Three insights that set a framework for realistic expectations.**

1. **John 1:17** - The nature of the **Covenants**.  
(last week)
2. **John 12:20-26** - The nature of the **Cross**.  
(this week)
3. **John 20:30-31** - The nature of **Faith**.  
(next week)

#### **John 12**

“<sup>20</sup> Now there were certain Greeks among those who were going up to worship at the feast; <sup>21</sup> these therefore came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and began to ask him, saying, “**Sir, we wish to see Jesus.**””

**This is the request that every reader  
of John's Gospel should be making.**

#### **John 1:4-5**

“In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.”

#### **John 1:9**

“There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.”

#### **John 12**

“<sup>22</sup> Philip came and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip came, and they told Jesus. <sup>23</sup> And Jesus answered them, saying, **The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.**”

#### **Note:**

1. The glory of anything is that which defines and reveals its core nature and designed purpose.
2. The “Son of man” (Dan.7:13-14) is a reference to a Messianic king who will rule the earth in the end time.



## The Son of Man

### *Daniel 7*

“<sup>13</sup> I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a **Son of Man** was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. <sup>14</sup> And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.”

#### Note:

1. In the intertestamental period “Son of Man” was understood to be the Messianic King.
2. In Shia Islam, it represents the 12th Imam who will return at the end of history.



### *John 12*

“<sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat **falls into the earth and dies**, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

#### Note Paul's commentary:

##### *1 Corinthians 1*

“<sup>18</sup> For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. . . . <sup>22</sup> For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

## The fruit of Jesus' death:

1. **Satisfying the demands of a holy God** - *Rom. 3:25* “whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith.”
2. **Reconciling believers to God** - *Rom. 5:10* “. . . while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son,. . .”.
3. **Liberating believers from the Law** - *Gal. 3:13* “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us – for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.”

### *John 12*

“<sup>25</sup> He who loves his life loses it; and he who **hates his life in this world** shall keep it to life eternal.”

#### Note:

1. **The way of Jesus is also to be the way of his disciples.**
2. **Christians are not called to hate themselves** (Eph. 5:29) **but rather to hate their lives IN THIS WORLD.**
3. **We cannot serve two masters.** Matt. 6:24
4. **We are stewards of our bodies as the temple of the Holy Spirit.** 1 Cor. 6:19

### *John 12*

“<sup>26</sup> If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and **where I am, there shall My servant also be**; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.”

## His Cross



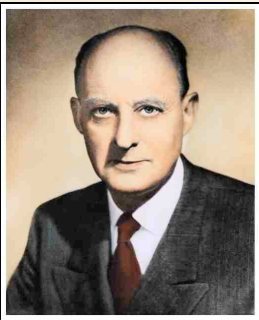
## Our Cross

### *Matthew 16:24*

“If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.”



H. Richard Niebuhr  
(Neo-orthodox Christian theological-ethicists  
Yale Divinity School)



“The theology of liberal protestantism was a God without wrath who brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross.”

***Cheap Grace***  
***celebrates God's love without God's justice.***



***Preaching grace  
without Christ's  
sacrifice.***

***Confessing faith  
without our  
sacrifice.***

***Christ died for us      and      we died with him.***  
***We are IN Christ      and      Christ is IN us.***

***John 10:10***

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; **I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.**”

***John 10:11***

“I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd **lays down his life** for the sheep.”

**What NOT to expect as a disciple of Jesus.**

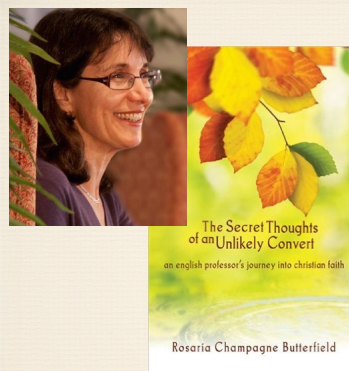
- Getting a leg up on the “good life” - the American dream.
- The grace of God includes and extends to our toys and idols.
- Assurance that I will live a long, comfortable life and end up as the richest person in the cemetery.

Take your baptism seriously knowing that God will as He calls you to deny your investment in this life in order to participate with him in his kingdom.

***Philippians 2***

“<sup>5</sup> Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

Peace starts with seeing the glory of God in the Cross of Christ with the expectation of experiencing its benefits & embracing its life style.



Dr. Rosaria Champagne Butterfield  
(former lesbian)

“What have you given up to follow Christ?”

***A good sign of a person's character is seen in what they say “NO” to and why.***