

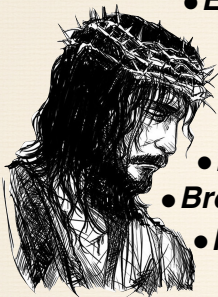
Paraphrase of Romans 13

“11 Sacrificially love one another knowing that the fulfillment of your deepest longings is just around the corner at Christ’s coming. 12 Act like you know this; 13 not like those who turn to the deeds of the flesh to find life. 14 Let your unmet longings draw you to Christ not to fleshly painkillers.”

1 Peter 4

“12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you **share the sufferings of Christ**, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of his glory you may rejoice with exultation.”

“the sufferings of Christ”



- **Emotionally traumatized.**
- **Religiously persecuted.**
- **Socially marginalized.**
- **Spiritually abandoned.**
- **Materially poor.**
- **Broken in heart.**
- **Morally shamed.**
- **Physically tortured.**

John 15:20

“Remember that word that I said to you. “A slave is not greater than his master.” If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you:”

Yes but what about the promises?

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 4:14

“but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

Deny self

Carry your cross

Suffer the loss of all things

Abundant life

100 fold return



Mark 10

“29 Jesus said, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake, 30 but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last, first.”

- **Jesus is speaking of what we might expect in this age as well as in the age to come.**
- **Whatever this means it is obvious that the Apostles did not experience this in a strictly literal sense.**

Acts 4

“³⁴ For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales ³⁵ and lay them at the apostles’ feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.”

- In coming to Jesus the disciples walked into a new world of spiritual community and away from a world that would, in response, persecute them.
- The law of Christ is to bear one another’s burdens - Gal.6:2.
- As the Body in Christ we are members of one another - Rom.12:5.

Matthew 12

“⁴⁸ But Jesus answered the one who was telling Him and said, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?” ⁴⁹ And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, “Behold My mother and My brothers! ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother.”

- Jesus invites us to see our lives through a kingdom lens, not the world’s lens.
- “Putting on Christ” (Rom.13:14) means putting on glasses that see life in a new way.

1. Keep your eye on the goal.

**Heaven is the Glory of God
shared by his people - satisfying the
deepest longings of their hearts.**

Ephesians 1:18

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,”

Note what we are to see!



The distraction of pain

Romans 8

“¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. . . . ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. ²³ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. ²⁴ For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.”

We bear a cross to a banquet.



Matthew 26:29

“But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on **until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.**”

1 Corinthians 11:26

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death **until He comes.**”

2. Don't run the wrong way.



Roy (wrong way) Riegels
1929 Rose Bowl



Characteristics of the night

- **Substance abuse** - "carousing & drunkenness"
- **Sexual abuse** - "sexual promiscuity & sensuality"
- **Status abuse** - "strife & jealousy"

Jeremiah 2:13

"For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water."

Our Functional Messiah

3. Don't spike the ball before you're in the end zone.

Desean Jackson
Eagles vs.
Cowboys
2008



1st century "ball spikers"

1 Corinthians 4

"8 You are already filled, you have already become rich, you have become kings without us; and indeed, I wish that you had become kings so that we also might reign with you. . . 10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor."

"For your gift to the ministry you can expect a 100 fold return for sowing good seed to further the work of the Lord." *Mark 4*

The parable of the sower speaks of a 100 fold return:

- based on the quality of the soil not the faith of the sower.
- as the fruitfulness of the soil not the sower.
- measured in the response to the Gospel not material wealth.

But what about . . .

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Does holiness lead to happiness & health?

***Yes . . . but
not in the way & time
we expect or want.***

1 Corinthians 15:19

“If we have hoped in Christ **in this life only**, we are of all men most to be pitied.”

1 Timothy 6:5-6

“. . . men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. But **godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.**”

Hebrews 11:36-40

Three don'ts

- Don't lose sight of the goal.
- Don't run the wrong way.
- Don't spike the ball before you're in the end zone.

“Patience is not simply the ability to wait - it's how we behave while we're waiting.”

Joyce Meyer

Being a peaceful waiter

- **Longings** - Don't kill your longings in order to make peace with this life.
- **Prayer** - for eyes to be open to the hope we have secured for us in Christ.
- **Expectations** - Don't place your hope in this life.
- **Cultivate contentment** - through gratitude, opportunity, and generosity.
- **Encourage others** - to be patient and faithful looking for the full coming of the promised kingdom.