

Quotes from Chapter 4 – Magnifying Christ Through Pain and Death

Page 61 – Living to magnify Christ is costly....

Page 62 – A life devoted to making much of Christ is costly. And the cost is both a **consequence and a means** of making much of him. If we do not embrace the path of joy-laden, painful love, we will waste our lives.

Page 65 – What you love determines what you feel shame about.

Page 71 – Jesus said, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23). **Daily Christian living is daily Christian dying.**

Page 72 – All of life for the Christian is meant to magnify Christ. This can happen through pleasure, and it can happen through pain. We are focusing here on the pain.

Page 72 – We are fallen, comfort-loving creatures. We are always on the lookout for ways to **justify our self-protecting, self-securing, self-pleasing ways of life.**

Page 73 – Untold numbers of professing Christians waste their lives trying to escape the cost of love.

Page 76 – What a tragic waste when people turn away from the Calvary Road of love and suffering. All the riches of the glory of God in Christ are on that road. All the sweetest fellowship with Jesus is there. All the treasures of assurance. All the ecstasies of joy. All the clearest signs of eternity. All the noblest camaraderie. All the humblest affections. All the most tender acts of forgiving kindness. All the deepest discoveries of God’s Word. All the most earnest prayers. They are all on the Calvary road where Jesus walks with his people. Take up your cross and follow Jesus. On this road, and this road alone, life is Christ and death is gain. Life on every other road is wasted.

Bible Verses about our Weakness and our Suffering

2 Corinthians 12:7b ...a thorn was giving me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. **8** three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, **for my power is made perfect in weakness.**”

Colossians 1:24 *Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I **am filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions** for the sake of his body, that is, the church...*

Psalm 119:67 *Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.* **68** You are good and do good; teach me your statutes..... **71** ***It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes*****75** *I know, O LORD, that your rules are righteous, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.*

Matthew 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit...**4** “Blessed are those who mourn,... **5** “Blessed are the meek,... **6** “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,...**7** “Blessed are the merciful,...**8** “Blessed are the pure in heart,... **9** “Blessed are the peacemakers,...**10** “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **11** “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, *for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you*. **13** “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

John 16:31 Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? **32** Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. **33** I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. *In the world you will have tribulation.* But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Acts 9:15b “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. **16** *For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”*

Acts 14:21 When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, **22** strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, *and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.*

Romans 8:16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, *provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.* **18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **19** For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. **20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, *but because of him who subjected it,* in hope **21** that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God

1 Corinthians 4:9 For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because *we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men.*....**11** To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, **12** and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; **13** when slandered, we entreat. *We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.*

2 Corinthians 1:4 *who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.* **5** For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. **6** If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. **7** Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort. **8** For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. **9** *Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.*

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. **8** *We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.*.... **15** For it is all for your sake, *so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.* **16** So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. **17** *For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,* **18** as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Philippians 1:27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, **28** and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. **29** *For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake.*...

Philippians 3:7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. **8** Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. *For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ* **9** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— **10** that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death...

1 Thessalonians 3:1 Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, **2** and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, **3** that no one be moved by these afflictions. *For you yourselves know that we are destined for this.* **4** For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know.

2 Thessalonians 1:3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. **4** Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and *faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.* **5** *This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering*

James 5:7 Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. **8** You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand....**10** As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. **11** Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

1 Peter 4:12 *Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.* **13** *But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.* **14** If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. **15** But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. **16** *Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.*

1 Peter 5:9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. **10** *And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.* **11** To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

These are things that as men we are all so naturally prone to, they are not directed to any individual. However...

Application

...I am sure that these things have found a home in many of our hearts at some time in our lives, maybe even right now for some of us.

Prayer – Father you have shown me by example and through your Word that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone...loving only its life (which it is destined to lose) and bearing no eternal fruit. I do not want to be that grain of wheat. Please, dear Savior, teach me how to die so that others may live and so that in the end my life will not have been wasted, but rather gloriously spent loving and glorifying you!

What can I die to starting right now: The flirting that I am caught up in or the full blown affair (please let me die to this). The pride that will not allow me to apologize to my wife whom I have deeply offended (please let me die so that my wife may live). The lust and greed that is inflamed by my insecurities and need for approval (please let me die to myself so I can love my brothers). The self-serving and self-glorifying shame that you have removed over my sins (please let me die to myself so that I can accept your love). The work, the legalism, the apathy, the posing, the dishonesty, the masks, the fear, all of it! *Please, oh please, God, let me die to myself so I can live for Christ and experience your love which has truly conquered all of these things – all for your glory!*