

What Are You Willing to Sacrifice?

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I. Introduction. We are going to have to make a great commitment in order to make an impact for Christ.

II. Paul's example.

A. Paul knew that he would have to suffer for Christ. (Acts 20:23)

B. Paul bore in his body the death of Jesus every day so that the life of Jesus might come about. (Acts 22, II Corinthians 4:10-11, II Corinthians 11:23, Galatians 6:7, I Thessalonians 2:2, Acts 16:23)

C. Paul wanted to know the fellowship of Jesus' suffering—he did not want suffering for the sake of suffering, but suffering for the sake of identifying with Christ. (Philippians 3)

III. Christian testimonies: Hudson Taylor, John Wesley.

IV. Paul sought to finish well. If we lose our lives, we will find it. (Philippians 4:8, 2:21, Acts 20:24, Matthew 16:25-27, John 14:4)

Application questions:

1. How does the biblical view of suffering contrast with what society teaches?

2. How did Paul embrace suffering without seeking it for its own sake?

3. In what ways do you struggle to “lose your life?” What will it take you to turn this area over to the Lord?
