

# Following JESUS

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Part Two



# Introduction...

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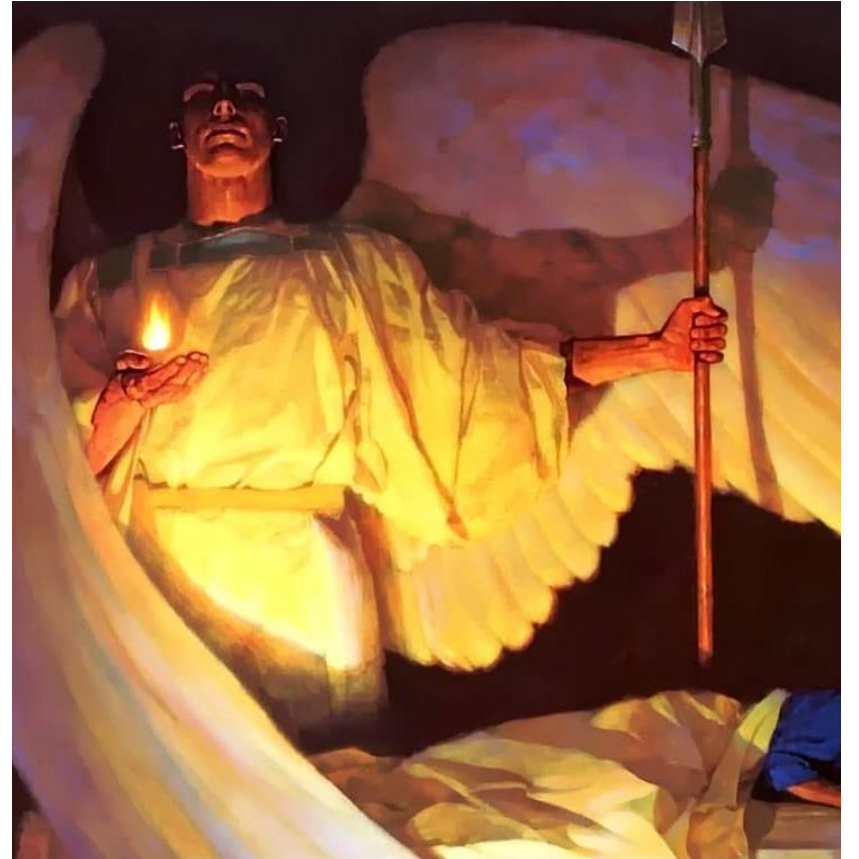
- In this brief session, we are going to do a deep dive into the passage where Jesus mentions following Him with a Cross
- A good study of the Epistles would give any Believer an understanding of what this Cross means.
- We will touch on some passages of Scripture that echo this.
- The challenge in the contemporary western Church is the absence of this central teaching as the core for ALL disciples.



# Introduction...

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- <sup>14</sup> “To the angel (divine messenger) of the church in Laodicea write:
- “These are the words of the Amen, the trusted *and* faithful and true Witness, the Beginning *and* Origin of God’s creation:
- <sup>15</sup> ‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold (invigorating, refreshing) nor hot (healing, therapeutic); I wish that you were cold or hot.
- <sup>16</sup> So because you are lukewarm (spiritually useless), and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of My mouth [rejecting you with disgust





# Introduction...

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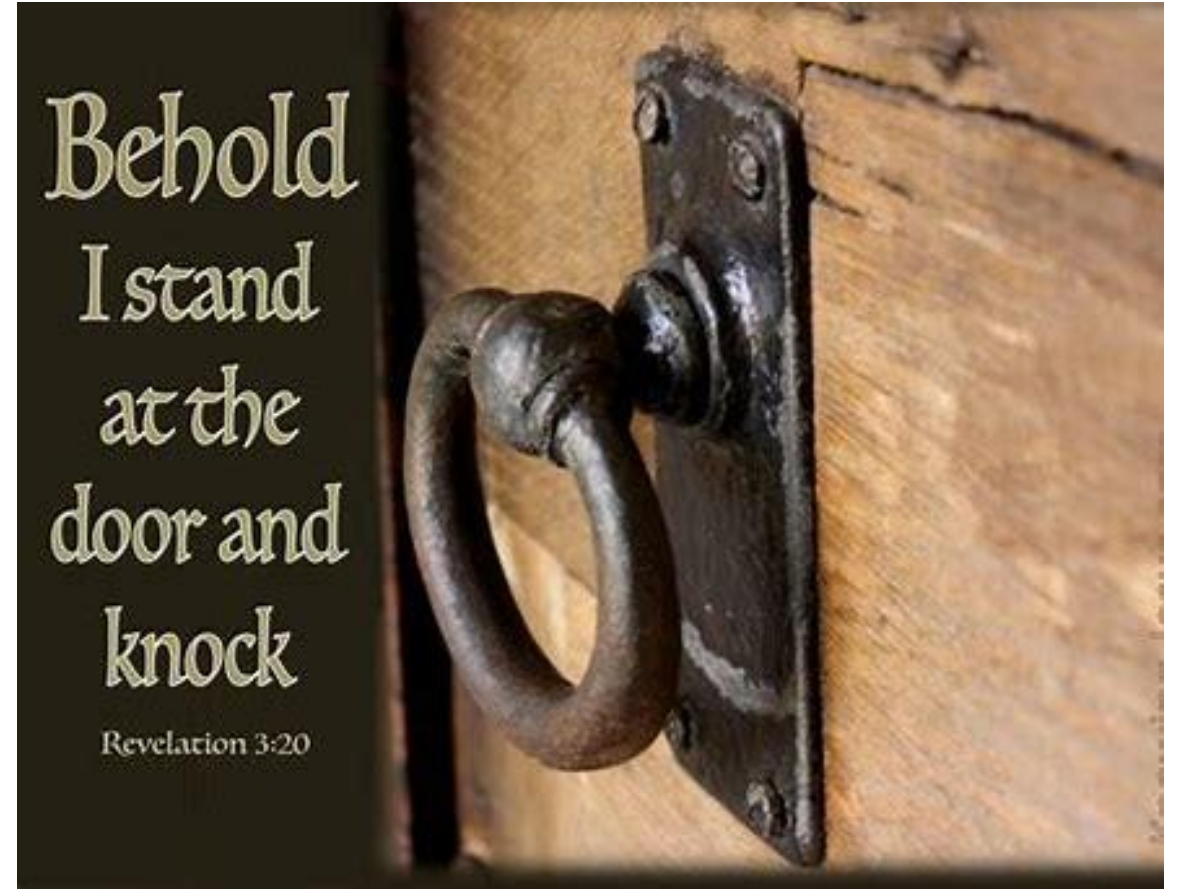
- <sup>17</sup> Because you say, “I am rich, and have prospered *and* grown wealthy, and have need of nothing,” and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked [without hope and in great need],
- <sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from Me gold that has been heated red hot *and* refined by fire so that you may become *truly* rich; and white clothes [representing righteousness]
- to clothe yourself so that the shame of your nakedness will not be seen; and *healing* salve to put on your eyes so that you may see.



# Introduction

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- <sup>19</sup> Those whom I [dearly and tenderly] love, I rebuke and discipline [showing them their faults and instructing them];
- so be enthusiastic and repent [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, your sinful behaviour—seek God’s will].
- <sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door [of the church] and *continually* knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him (restore him), and he with Me.



# Introduction...

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- <sup>21</sup> He who overcomes [the world through believing that Jesus is the Son of God],
- I will grant to him [the privilege] to sit beside Me on My throne,
- as I also overcame and sat down beside My Father on His throne.
- <sup>22</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear *and* heed what the Spirit says to the churches.” Rev 3:14-22

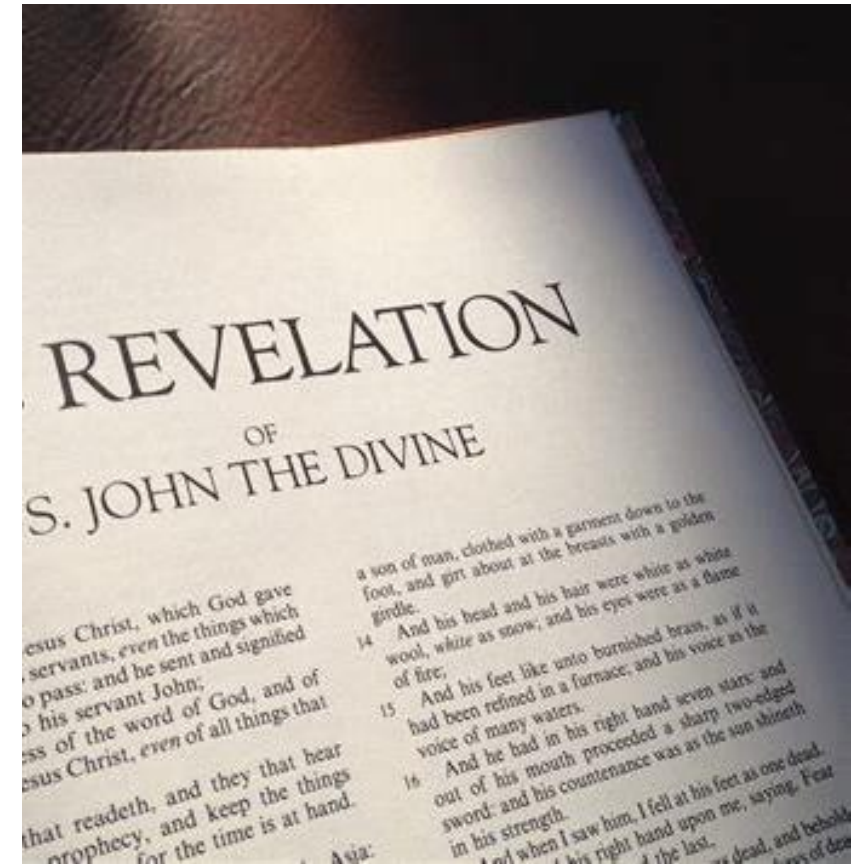




# Introduction...

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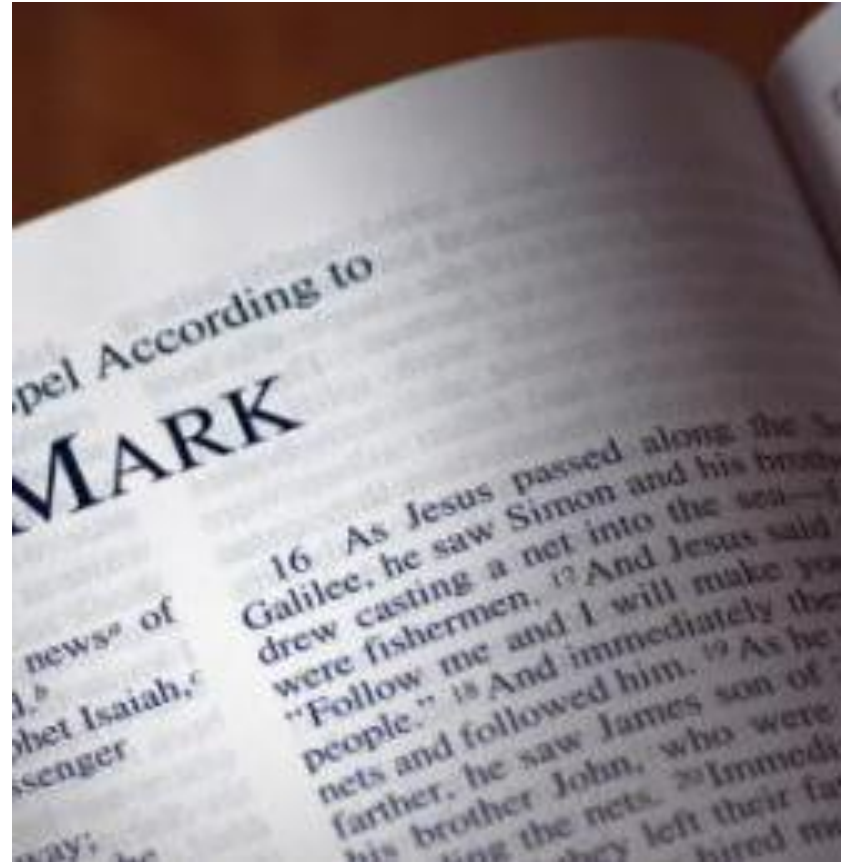
- The Churches addressed in chapters two and three of Revelation are both Historic and Prophetic.
- These were actual churches that existed at the time of writing about two thousand years ago.
- The parallels between these historic churches and those during the church are instructive.
- When we read these passages, we also see repetition of behaviour from the past in the present.
- Many scholars and prophetic teachers have likened the current western church to the Laodicean church in chapter three of Revelation.



# Mark 8...

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- **Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ**
- <sup>27</sup> Now Jesus and His disciples went out to the towns of Caesarea Philippi; and on the road He asked His disciples, saying to them, “Who do men say that I am?”
- <sup>28</sup> So they answered, “John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.”
- <sup>29</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”
- Peter answered and said to Him, “You are the Christ.”
- <sup>30</sup> Then He strictly warned them that they should tell no one about Him.





# Get behind me!

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- **Jesus Predicts His Death and Resurrection**
- <sup>31</sup> And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.
- <sup>32</sup> He spoke this word openly. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him.
- <sup>33</sup> But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying,
- “Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”



# What will it profit...?

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- **Take Up the Cross and Follow Him**
- <sup>34</sup> When He had called the people to *Himself*, with His disciples also, He said to them,
- “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.
- <sup>35</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.
- <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?
- <sup>38</sup> For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”  
Mark 8:27-38



# Who am I?

- The answer to this question separates you from the multitude
- Many see Jesus in different lights which are inaccurate
- Knowing Jesus Christ is not mental but a revelation from Heaven by God Himself
- It forms the foundation upon which the Church is built.
- Knowing God yourself is the crux of Christianity





# Get behind me satan!

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- Do you have a distorted view of God?
- Peter's Messiah was NOT a lamb but The Lion
- Sometimes we want a victorious Christianity not a suffering faith
- Rebuking God??
- Jesus rebukes the spirit behind Peter's mindset
- Not mindful of the things of God...



# The Cross...

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- Whoever desires to come after me should take up 'his/her' cross!!
- This was a very shocking statement.
- Every Jew knew the excruciating SHAME associated with crucifixion
- It was a walk of pain
- A lonely walk of death
- A public embarrassment
- Many walked completely naked
- A walk of condemnation
- A walk of rejection



# The CROSS...

- The application of the Cross is that the world has condemned you and to death,
- We will never be accepted in the world dominated by satan!
- *<sup>18</sup> “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. John 15:18-19*





# The CROSS....

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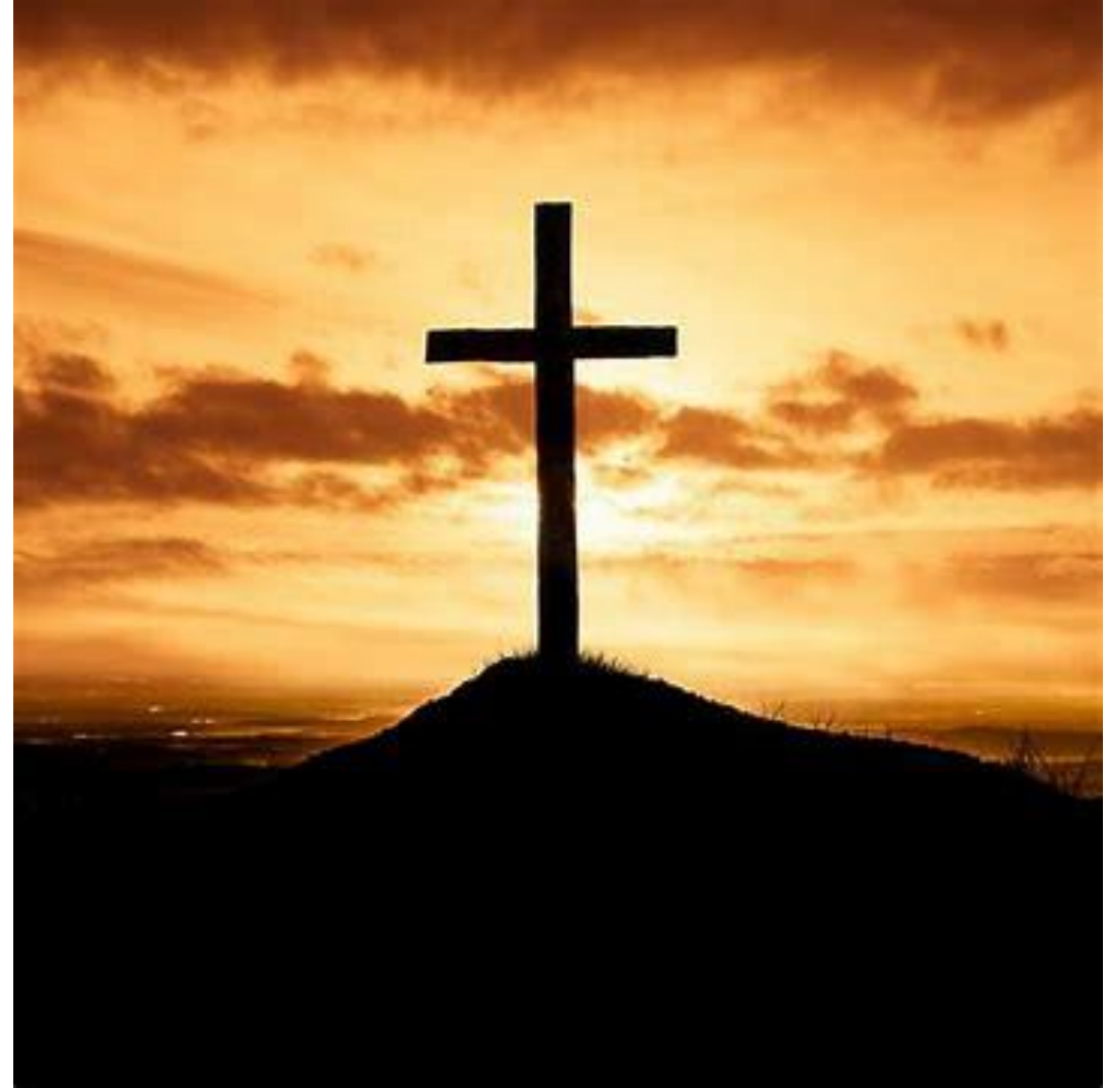
- The Cross separates you from the world'
- This is a hard message because everybody wants acceptance.
- The modern Laodicean church teaches inclusion and oneness with the world
- *<sup>12</sup>As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.*
- *<sup>13</sup>For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.*
- *<sup>14</sup>But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by <sup>[b]</sup>whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Galatians 6:12-14*



# Deny Yourself...

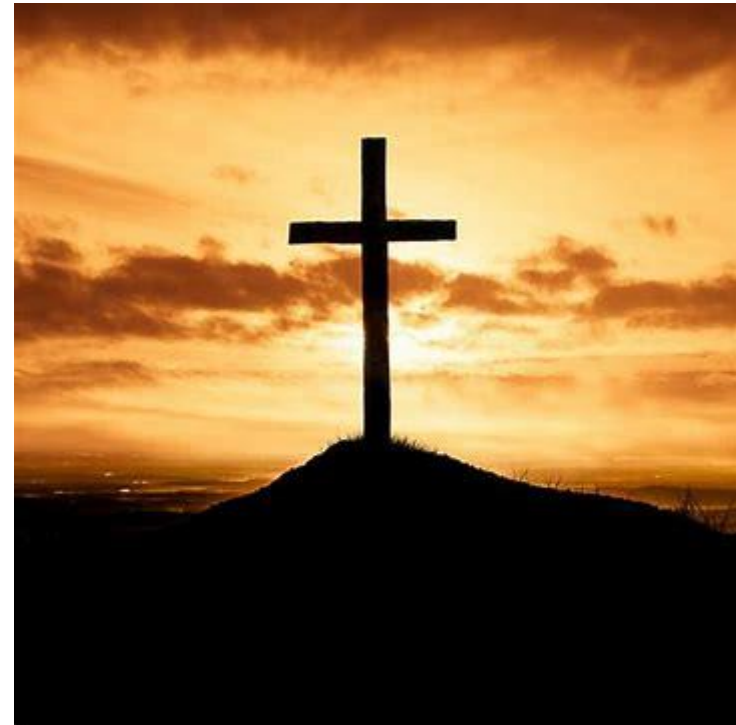
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- “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. Mk 8:34
- Self-denial is different from Denying yourself.
- One speaks of discipline which is good, the other speaks of death of self.
- Nobody wants to die!!
- There is an innate self-preservation instinct in all of us which avoids the cross at all costs.
- Jesus says “take up your cross and follow me...”
- When was the last time you went to church and the Minister preached this?
- Nobody wants to hear this anymore these days that’s why the Pastors don’t teach this anymore!



# The CROSS...

- The CROSS is the crux of Christianity
- This is what makes us Christ like; not signs and wonders
- To die to self and surrender all to Jesus is easier sang than lived!
- *“I surrender all..”*
- *“All to Jesus, I surrender; I surrender all”*

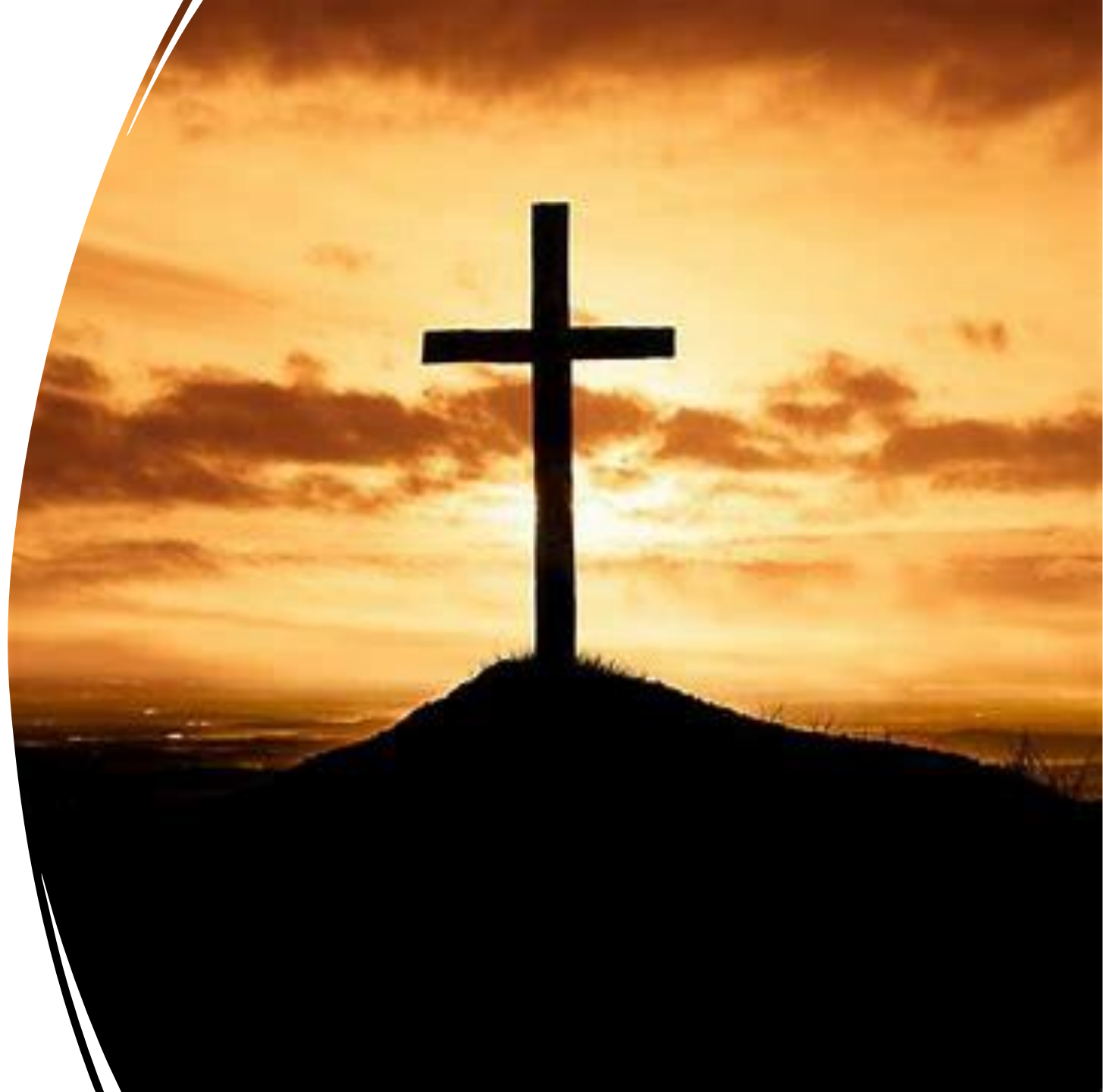




# Pearl of...

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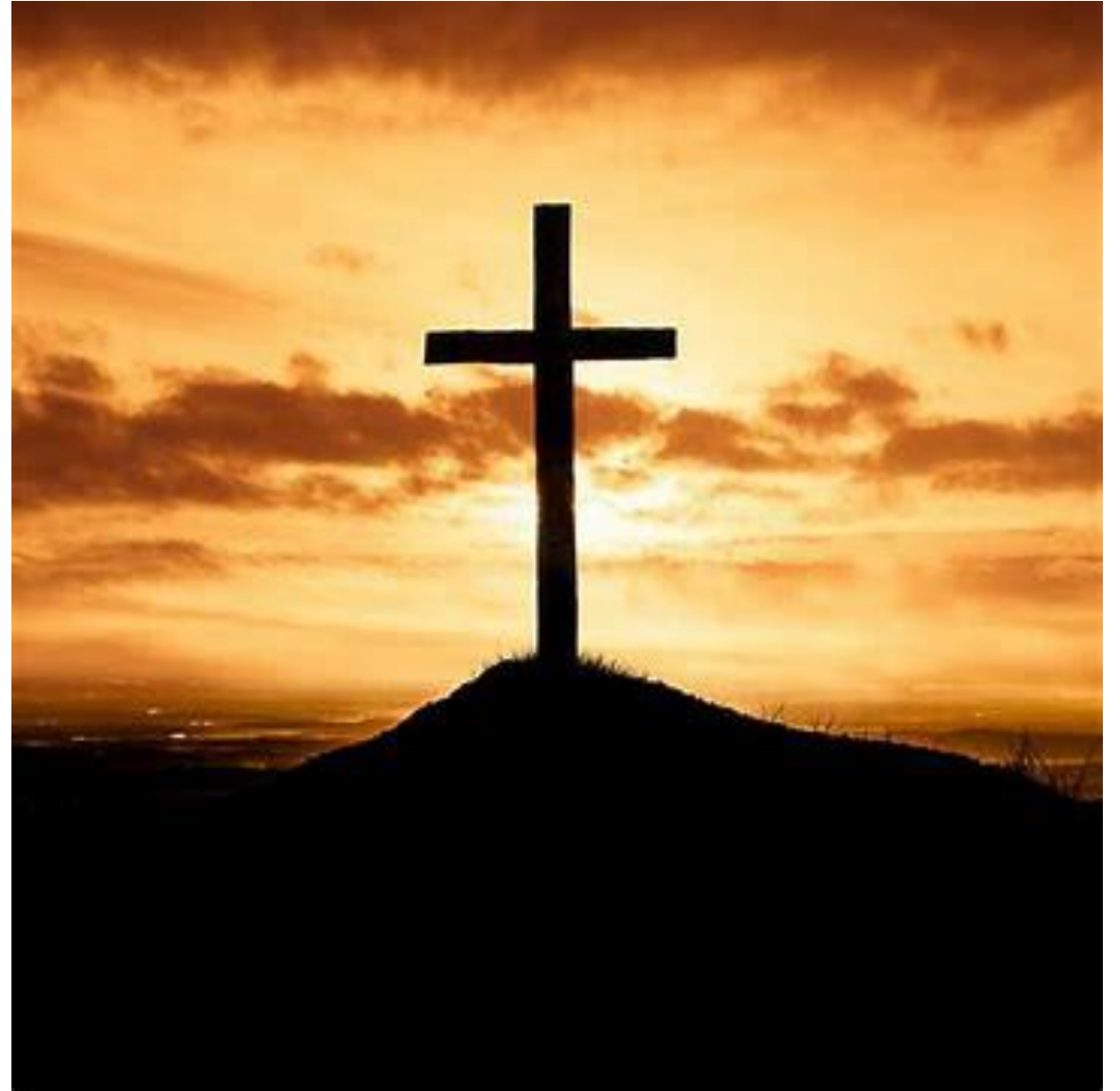
- <sup>35</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.
- <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?
- <sup>37</sup> Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?



# Die....

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- Your true life is discovered by death
- You enter into your real destiny by surrendering your own:
- Plans
- Desires
- Ego
- Life
- If we embrace this message, we embrace GOD!



# Die...

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- If you had 1000 acres of land
- A billion pounds in the bank
- The best job in the world
- The best of what this world can offer
- BUT you forfeit your SOUL, it's a bad deal!
- In other words, your Soul is worth more than the Earth itself!!





A wooden cross is positioned on the left side of the frame, extending from the bottom left towards the top center. The background is a soft, out-of-focus sunset sky with warm, golden-brown and orange tones. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# HOMework....

What is the VALUE of your SOUL?