The Cost Of Discipleship

Intro: Practically all good things are costly. The finest things in life are dearly bought. The liberty we enjoy as Americans came at great cost. Being a disciple of Christ also cost much.

1. On the divine side salvation is a matter of grace or favor, it is free or a gift.
   a. Eph. 2:8 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God;”
   b. Rom. 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

2. In becoming a Christian sinners must give up much of what they cherish.

3. However, there is nothing more precious to the Christian.
   a. Isa. 55:1-2 “Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.”
   b. Pro. 23:23 “Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.”

4. However, there is a cost for those becoming a Christian; Luke 14:26-33 “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. 27And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. 28For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? 29Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, 30Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. 31Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? 32Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. 33So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.”

I. It Cost Much On The Divine Side For Us To Be Christians.
   A. It cost God the gift of His Son.
      1. John 3:16-17 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”
      2. Rom. 8:32 “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”
      3. 2 Cor. 9:15 “Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.”
   B. It cost Christ, the Son of God.
      1. Eternal equality with the Father.
         a. Phi. 2:6-8 “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: [counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, - ASV] 7But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”
         b. 2 Cor. 8:9 “For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.”
         c. Heb. 12:2 “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for [Greek—ἀντί, anti, meaning against, opposite or instead of] the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
2. His life and blood.
   a. John 6:51 “I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”
   b. John 10:15-18 “As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. 17Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”
   c. Heb. 2:9 “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”
   d. 1 Tim. 2:4-6 “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”

C. To be saved, we must be in the church of Christ, the world’s most costly institution.
   1. Eph. 5:25 “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;”
   2. Acts 20:28 “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”

II. IT COST THE CHURCH MUCH TO CONVERT AND SAVE SINNERS.
   A. The Word or Gospel must be preached by the church.
      1. It is the church’s responsibility.
         a. Acts 11:22-26 “Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. 23Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. 24For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord. 25Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: 26And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.”
         b. Acts 13:1-3 “Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. 3And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.”
      2. It is necessary to the salvation of sinners.
         a. No man can come to Christ without hearing the Word of God; John 6:44-45 “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. 45It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.”
         b. Rom. 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
      3. Sometimes preached at great cost.
         a. 2 Cor. 11:8 “I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service.”
         b. Phi. 4:14-17 “Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. 15Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. 16For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. 17Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.”
B. It cost men much self-denial and sacrifice to go out and preach the Word.

1. Jesus gives us the commission to go preach; Mat. 28:18-20 “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

2. To the apostles:
   a. Mat. 10:16, 28 “Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves... And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”
   b. John 16:2 “They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.”

3. Mark 10:28-30 “Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel’s, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.”

4. Compare what Paul endured; 2 Cor. 11:23-28 “Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.”

C. Gospel meetings, literature, Lectureships, VBS’s, Radio, Television, etc. cost much money, time and effort.

III. SINNERS MUST PAY CERTAIN COSTS IN ORDER TO BECOME CHRISTIANS.

A. There is only one way and it is a narrow way.

1. John 14:6 “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

2. Mat. 7:13-14 “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

B. The sinner must pay the price of giving up his false beliefs.

1. He must believe the truth regardless of consequences.
2. Pro. 23:23 “Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.”
3. John 8:32 “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
4. Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
5. 2 Thc. 2:9-10 “Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”

C. The sinner must pay the price of giving up all of his sins.

1. Isa. 55:7 “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”
2. Acts 3:19, 26 “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;... 26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.”

3. This is the action of repentance.

4. Notice Paul’s attitude; Phi. 3:4-8 “Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: 5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,”

D. He must pay the price of giving up his pride and worldly wisdom, be buried with Christ in baptism and arise to a new life.

1. Rom. 6:3-5 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:”

2. Mark 16:16 “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

3. Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

4. Acts 22:16 “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

5. John 3:5 “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

E. He must continue to remember it is still by grace.

1. Luke 17:10 “So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.”

2. Rom. 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

IV. It Cost Us Much To Live The Christian Life.

A. We must carry our cross and follow Jesus.

1. Mat. 16:24 “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”

2. Luke 14:26-33 “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him. Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desirereth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.”

B. It cost us the giving up of all old sinful habits and overcoming them as rapidly as possible.

1. Tit. 2:11-12 “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”

2. Rom. 12:1-3 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this
world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and
acceptable, and perfect, will of God. 3For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among
you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God
hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

3. Heb. 12:1 “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay
aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set
before us,”

4. Jam. 1:27 “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and
widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”

5. 1 John 2:14 “I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I
have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have
overcome the wicked one.”

C. Must pay the price of giving the Lord a reasonable portion of our time for study,
worship, good works, etc.

1. Eph. 5:16 “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”

2. Col. 4:5 “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.”

3. John 4:23 “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit
and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.”

4. 2 Tim. 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth.”

5. Tit. 2:14 “Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a
peculiar people, zealous of good works.”

D. Must pay the cost of being personally studious, devout and godly.

1. 1 Cor. 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work
of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

2. Tit. 2:12 “Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously,
and godly, in this present world;”

3. Tit. 3:1 “Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to
every good work,”

E. Will cost us the making of liberal contributions of money, etc.

1. 1 Cor. 16:1-2 “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of
Galatia, even so do ye. 2Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath
prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”

2. 2 Cor. 9:7-9 “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of
necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 8And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye,
always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: 9(As it is written, He hath
dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.”

3. Mat. 6:19-21 “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and
where thieves break through and steal: 20But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth
nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21For where your treasure is, there
will your heart be also.”

Conclusion: Satan does not way men to count the cost so they will get disappointed and go back into
the world; John 6:66 “From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.” If we do count
the cost, Satan wants us to do nothing but count the cost and forget the benefits.