

Message Notes

February 20, 2011



“Paradoxes of the Christian Life”

(Various Scriptures)

Introduction: As Christians:

We will never be wildly popular with the world (John 15:18-19)

We are a puzzle to ourselves (Psalm 8:3-4)

We are a puzzle to angels (1 Peter 1:12)

We are the delight of God (Psalm 17:8)

God (through His Holy Spirit) lives in us (Romans 8:9)

One thing the Bible commands us to do over again and again is
REMEMBER...

Definition: A _____ is something that seems contradictory or impossible, but is actually true.

If you are a “sold out” Christian you are:

1. Always _____, yet always stressed by trials.

“...you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been distressed by various trials.” 1 Peter 1:6(NKJV)

2. _____ and yet you are alive. (Galatians 2:20)

“Therefore, urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices... Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

3. Most sinless when you are most aware of your sin, and most sinful when you feel the most _____.

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins...” 1 John 1:8-9 (NIV)

4. Raising your stature every time you lower yourself, and lowering your stature every time you _____ yourself.

(Mark 9:35; Luke 18:14; 22:24-27).

“If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all.” Mark 9:35 (NIV)

“God is fair. He won’t forget what you’ve done or the love you’ve shown for Him.” Hebrews 6:10 (GWT)

5. Saving your life by losing it; and you are in the greatest danger of losing it when you try to _____ it.

(Matthew 16:25; Mark 8:35; Luke 9:24; John 12:25)

If you are “saving your life by losing it” you are:

- Giving generously of your _____.

“No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs – he wants to please his commanding officer.” 2 Timothy 2:4 (NIV)

- Giving generously of your _____.

“Each of you as a good manager must use the gift that God has given you to serve others.” 1 Peter 4:10 (GWT)

- Giving generously of your _____.

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”

2 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV)

Closing Meditation:

