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*Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.*

*<sup>2</sup> Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

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*2 Corinthians 5:15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

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*"...he must deny himself, take up his cross..."*

"Take up" -

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*"...take up his cross daily..."*

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*1 John 2:6 Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.*

Key: Page 2: Me. self. Like Himself. Page 3: Self-Denial.

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## Take Up Your Cross

### The Cross of Christ—part 4

July 10, 2011

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*Matthew 16:21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.*

*<sup>22</sup> Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"*

*<sup>23</sup> Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."*

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*Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it."*

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*"If anyone would come after Me.... "*

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*"...he must ..."*

*"...he must deny himself ..."*

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## Why is Self-Denial Important?

### 1. There is Something Wrong With “\_\_\_\_\_.”

*Genesis 3:8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.*

*Colossians 3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.*

<sup>2</sup> *Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.*

A person's “\_\_\_\_\_” is what causes most of the misery of life.

### 2. Christ Intends to Grow Us to be \_\_\_\_\_.

*Romans 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*

*2 Corinthians 3:18 And we all with unveiled face reflecting the glory of the Lord are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

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### 3. Anything Really Important Requires \_\_\_\_\_.

*1 Corinthians 9:24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.*

<sup>25</sup> *Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.*

<sup>26</sup> *Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air.*

<sup>27</sup> *No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.*

(For further study: *Ex. 33:6; 1 Kings 17:13; Psalm 132:1-5; Prov. 25:6; Isaiah 58:13; Daniel 1:8*)

## What's Involved in Self-Denial?

*Matt. 7:13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."*

*Matthew 16:25 "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it."*

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