

DYING TO LIVE

John 12:23-33

The game of life

Only by the cross did Jesus bear lasting fruit

Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” John 12:23-24

- The reason for the cross
“Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” John 12:31-32
- The fruit of the cross
“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45

The paradox of self-denial

“Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.” John 12:25

Why should you hate your “life in this world”?

- Nothing in this world will last
The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. 1 John 2:17
- The world cannot, will not, save you
“What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?” Mark 8:36-37

Only by following Jesus does greatness come

“Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.”

John 12:26

- Christ now lives in you
I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20
- Your life is not your own
For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 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. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15