The Cost of TRUE Christianity

**Reading - Luke 14:25-35**

**knock-off religions**

True religion has strict demands. David realized the cost of true religion when he said, ***(2 Samuel 24:24)"I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me ."***

***(Mark 12:30.*** ***"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your , with all your , with all your , and with all your ."***

 **cost from the heart**

***(John 14:15"If you love Me, keep My commandments").***

***(2 Corinthians 5:14-15) For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; {15} and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.***

***(1 John 2:3-5) Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. {4} He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. {5} But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.***

***(Romans 12:15-16) Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. {16} Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.***

***(Romans 9:1-3) I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, {2} that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. {3} For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,***

***(2 Corinthians 12:15) And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.***

 **cost from the mind**

***(Philippians 1:9-10) And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, {10} that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,***

***(Colossians 1:9-10) For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; {10} that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.***

***(2 Timothy 2:15) Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.***

 **cost of our strength**

***(2 Corinthians 11:23-28) Are they ministers of Christ?... I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. {24} From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. {25} Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; {26} in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; {27} in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness; {28} besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.***

***(1 John 3:17-18) But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? {18} My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.***

**Financial costs**

***(Mark 12:43-44)* *"Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; {44} "for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."***

***(2 Corinthians 8:1-5*** and see how the churches of Macedonia...***beyond their ability were freely willing... to give to the ministering of the saints... {5} And not only as we*** [Paul] ***had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.***

(2 Corinthians 9:6-8) But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. {7} So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. {8} And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

**the most VALUABLE cost =**

***(John 9:4) "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work".***

***(Galatians 6:10) Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.***

***(Ephesians 5:15-16) See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, {16} redeeming the time, because the days are evil.***