

"THE SAVIOUR AND THE SAVED"**Introduction**

1. This chapter records the close of Christ's ministry: v.36
2. At this point the shadow of the Cross falls upon Christ: v.27f

1. THE SAVIOUR'S PICTURE OF HIS OWN MISSION: v.24

- 1) To have saved his own life would not have benefited us: the grain of wheat must die.
- 2) To bring blessing to us He had to die.
- 3) Believers are all the fruit of His passion and of His agonies.
- 4) The time for our Lord to die had now arrived and He knows it:
v.20 (Greeks) – v.27 ('this hour') – the voice (v.28).

OBSERVE: As Christ must needs suffer to be a blessing, so must Christians also suffer in order to glorify God (reproaches, scoffing, rejection).

2. THE SAVIOUR'S PICTURE OF THE CHRISTIAN: v.25-26

*There is similarity between Christ and His people – the Christian life is a suffering life:

- 1) "He that loveth..lose it":
The unbeliever's mistake – we lose it when we enjoy life without Christ – the end is to lose all, even our own soul.
Note: the apparent contradiction.
- 2) "..Hateth his life..keep it":
The Christian hates his life – he can wait for his good things – suffers with Christ now.
Note: contradiction again.

- 3) "If any man serve..follow":
The Christian life is one of self-denial / taking the cross / putting God's will first / aiming at God's glory / following Christ's example.

ILLUSTRATION: a university man into the prison ministry.

- 4) "Where I am...my servant":
Our Lord refers to heaven – if we follow +serve Christ we shall soon be with him – the better we serve Christ the more will be Christ's commendation of us.
- 5) "If any man serve..my Father honour":
What an incentive to go on in service to Christ! To be honoured by the heavenly Father is the ultimate reward:
 - (i) to be loved by God's people on earth
 - (ii) to be praised by Christ in the Judgement Day
 - (iii) to be close to God's throne eventually

3. APPLICATION

- 1) We are to "die daily", like the Apostle.
- 2) We are to put God's will before our own will.
- 3) We are to seek to be a blessing to others rather than to please ourself.

CONCLUSION

If we do not do so, we are not Christ's disciples.

PSALMS

27: 1 – 4

62: 5 – 9

123: 1 - 4