

Lessons Learned About God, Life, and Man

1. What God is asking of us is very difficult to achieve...on our own. But that's just it, we're not supposed to attempt this on our own. We cannot do this without Christ; He will provide everything we need to live the selfless lives God expects of us, 2:1-8.
2. What God is asking us to do is to live life the way His Son did, to think of others instead of ourselves, to look out for the interests of others not just our own, 2:1-8.
3. The selfless example Jesus gave us is incredible: even though He possessed the full glory of God, He took the form of flesh and blood. But He didn't come as a King; He came as a slave who was destined to die a brutal death in order to save mankind, 2:5-8.
4. In order for God to heal the relationship between God and mankind and the internal relationships within mankind, God had to be willing to die. Therefore, if we want to save and heal every relationship—with our spouse, son-in-law, friend, co-worker, etc.—then we have to be willing to die for them and pay the cost it takes to save that relationship, 2:1-8.
5. Glory comes after sacrifice—not the other way around—but it's also something that you cannot pursue for yourself; glory must be given to you, 2:5-11.
6. Satan is NOT greater than Jesus; Satan and all his minions actually have to bow down before Him, 2:9-11.
7. Living selfless lives will be hard; we'll have to deal with difficult and possibly irate people for whom God wants us to be a light so that they can see their own darkness and be saved. But how can we survive and be triumphant during these trying moments? We can be triumphant because it is God who will work in us to save us during these difficult times. All He asks is that we work alongside Him so that we can accomplish our own salvation through His power and His Word/Voice, 2:12-16.
8. It might seem impossible to live pure and blameless lives in a world that is so filled with darkness, but it actually is possible. In order to achieve this, we have to cling to God's Word/Voice and rely on His power which will enable us and will us to constantly strive for purity, 2:12-16.
9. Would you give up your seat for someone else if you were riding a bus? Would you lend someone \$5,000 if they needed it? In order to mend a relationship, would you apologize first to someone who owes you an apology and could care less about apologizing to you? We should be glad to give up our lives for others in these and many other ways, 2:17.
10. The key characteristic of fallen human nature is to look out for yourself instead of others. Most people look out for their own, whether their own wellbeing or the wellbeing of those close to them, 2:20-21.
11. If you rely on God's power and Word/Voice to live your life, then you will be able to put up with the most excruciating pain and circumstances, even death, in order to help your fellow man, 2:25-30.