

Questions & Answers

Waverly Church of Christ

March 26, 2023

Does the second part of Luke 9:24 mean that

**Whoever loses their life
will find it for His sake,
or**

**Whoever loses their life
because of His sake will find it?**

“And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his ¹life will lose it, but whoever loses his ¹life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?”

(Luke 9:23–25, NASB95)

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his ¹life will lose it; but whoever loses his ¹life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

(Matthew 16:24–26, NASB95)

“And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his ¹life will lose it, but whoever loses his ¹life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?””

(Mark 8:34–37, NASB95)

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(Luke 9:24; NASB95)

“Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matthew 10:28, NASB95)

“And He said to him, “ “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.”” (Matthew 22:37, NASB95)

“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?’” (Luke 12:20, NASB95)

“BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.”

(Acts 2:27, NASB95)

“So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.”

(Acts 2:41, NASB95)

“Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart”

(1 Peter 1:22, NASB95)

“And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his ¹life will lose it, but whoever loses his ¹life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?””

(Mark 8:34–37, NASB95)

“If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself. . .”

(Mark 8:34b, NASB95)

- He must “deny himself” by saying “No” to a self-centered life focused on earthly security.

Luke 12:16-21

“And He told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man was very productive. ¹⁷And he began reasoning to himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸Then he said, ‘This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹‘And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.” ’

Luke 12:16-21

“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?’ ²¹So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.””

“If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross . . .”
(Mark 8:34b, NASB95)

- He must “deny himself” by saying “No” to a self-centered life focused on earthly security.
- He must “take up his cross” by saying “Yes” to God’s will and way.

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- He must “deny himself” by saying “No” to a self-centered life focused on earthly security.
- He must “take up his cross” by saying “Yes” to God’s will and way.
- “Follow Me” (present imperative) – we keep following, saying yes to God and no to self all through our lives.

“But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,”

(Philippians 3:7–8, NASB95)

If you or I decide to hold on to a self-centered life in this world by refusing Jesus' requirements — denying self, taking up our cross daily, following Him — we will ultimately lose our life to eternal ruin.

However, if you or I will lose our lives, by giving them over in loyalty to Jesus and the gospel, then we will preserve them forever.