



SERIES: August / September Series “HE IS ENOUGH”

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Thursday, 08/19/2021

Scripture: Colossians 1:24-25

TITLE: Was It Worth It?

Was it worth it? I often ask myself that after a challenge that I complete. One such challenge was hiking up Little Devils Tower in Custer, South Dakota.

For a family vacation, we went up to the black hills. We saw Mount Rushmore, hiked through caves, and ended tackling Little Devils Tower. This 4 mile, 1000 foot ascent doesn't sound so bad, but when your three little boys are in tow, it's a bit more work. But we navigated the route over a couple of hours until we hit the top. We were exhausted. Our bodies ached. But when we stood on top of this peak, I asked my wife and boys, “Was it worth it?” “Oh yeah,” they all said.

Paul knew suffering and hardship, but he also knew it was worth it. This is what Paul had to say about his suffering for Christ in Colossians 1:24-25 (NLT):

“I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for his body, the church. God has given me the responsibility of serving his church by proclaiming his entire message to you.”

Sometimes when I read the Bible, I wonder if the apostles were sadists! Paul says, “I am glad when I suffer for you in my body.” If you're like me, that seems like an odd statement. But when we pause and think about cost and reward, it really isn't. That day when we sacrificed our bodies to climb Little Devils Tower, we said, “it was worth it.”

Paul has been a faithful messenger of the gospel. That gospel is being spread. He is now in chains and has suffered greatly for spreading it. Knowing that these brothers and sisters in Colosse are saved from hell and saved to life to the fullest and eternity with God, he says, “This suffering is worth it.”

We do this all the time for things that frankly aren't worth it. Marriages fall apart for the cost of a career. Savings emptied for a lucrative opportunity—bodies broken for momentary fame on TikTok or YouTube.

The cost is never worth the reward for these types of things. But when our efforts are like Paul's, we can say it was worth it.

Paul's mission is our mission. Our mission as Christians is to proclaim the entire gospel message to the people around us. Will it cost us something? Most likely? Is it worth it. It is worth it all.

So this is my challenge for you today: count the cost. We are all sacrificing something. It could be for your career, your bank account, your golf score, your popularity on social media, or something else. But friend, is it worth it? Probably not.

Instead, we should be living for the gospel of Jesus Christ. We should be willing to suffer as Christ suffered because there is no greater pleasure than to know someone has heard, received, and responded to the gospel message.

So count the cost of your own life. Adjust accordingly to live for the things that matter. And then begin to proclaim that message.

When our lives are aligned with God's mission, we will win the day.