



To be a Christian

Mark 8:31-9:1

How do you know you are a Christian?

- Go to church?
- Said sinner's prayer?
- Baptized and take the Holy Communion?
- Read the Bible every day?

MARK

Mark 8:29

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Peter answered and said to Him,

“**You are the Christ** (Messiah).”

MARK

“Get behind Me, Satan!

**For you are not mindful of the things of God,
but the things of men.”**

Mark 8:33

MARK

Matthew 4:8-10

“the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you ... if you will bow down and worship me.”

“Away from me, Satan!

For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.

“Get behind Me, Satan!

**For you are not mindful of the things of God,
but the things of men.”**

Mark 8:33

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Mark 8:34

He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

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Mark 8:34

He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after (**follow**) Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and **follow** Me.

MARK

Mark 8:34

He said to them, **Say “NO”** desires to follow Me, let him **deny** himself, and **take up his cross**, and **follow** Me.

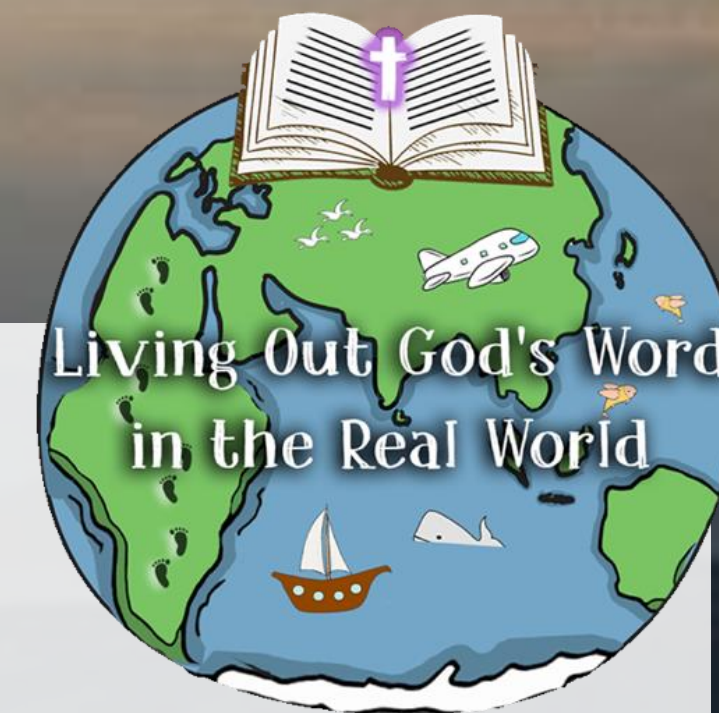
Say “YES”

MARK

Trust God

Philippians 2:5-8

... Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, **did not consider** equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he **made himself nothing** by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming **obedient to death** — even death on a cross!



Mark 8:34

He said to them, **Say "NO"** desires to follow Me, let him **deny** himself, and **take up his cross**, and **follow** Me.

Say "YES"

MARK

Trust God

Mark 8:34

“Whoever wants to follow Me (be a **Christian**), let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

MARK

Mark 8:34

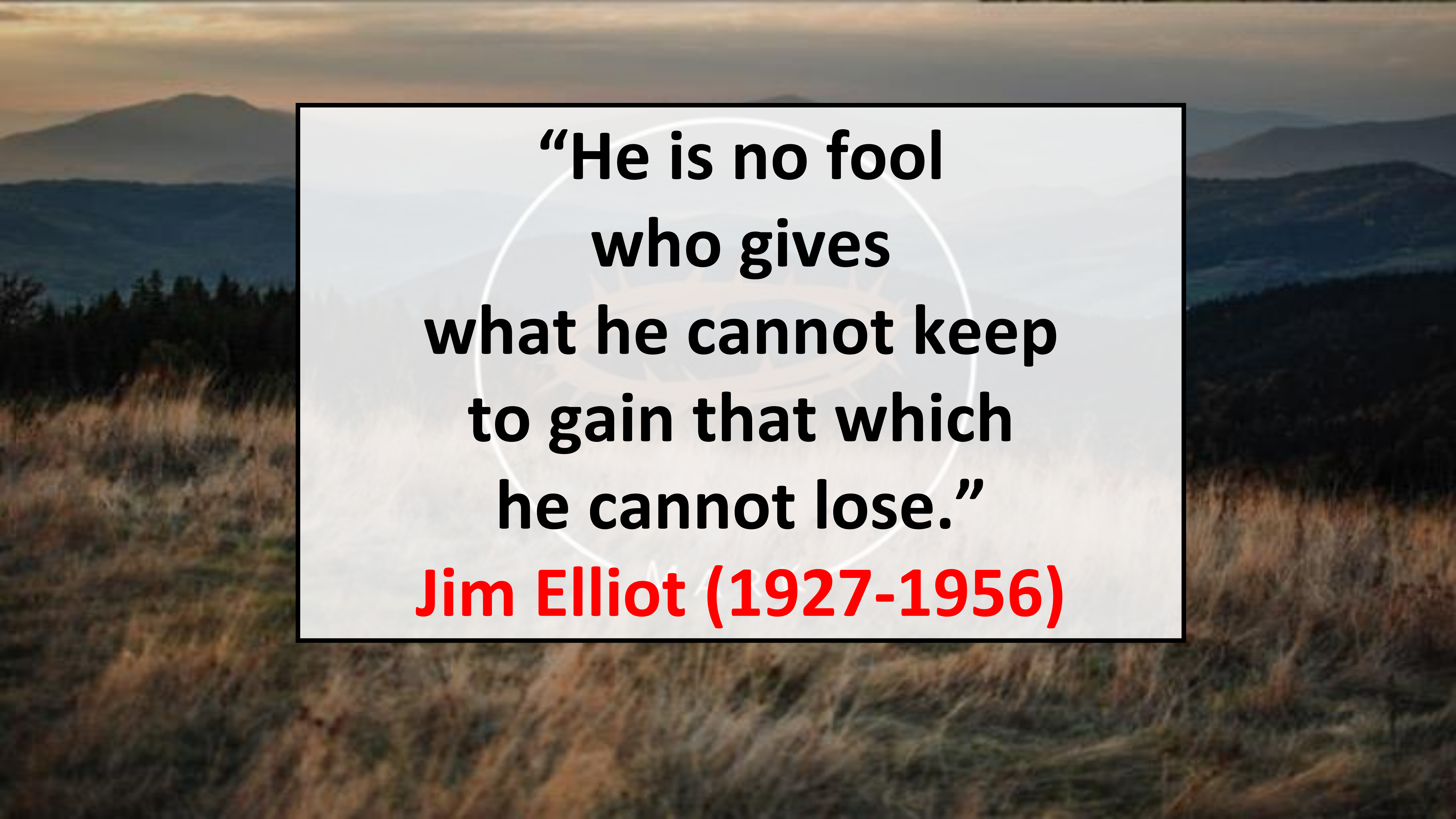
“Whoever wants to follow Me, let him deny himself, and **take up his cross, and **follow Me.**”**

MARK

Mark 8:35-37

For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?



**“He is no fool
who gives
what he cannot keep
to gain that which
he cannot lose.”**

Jim Elliot (1927-1956)

Mark 8:34-37

“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

1. Am I a Christian?

- † Denying, or always giving in?
- † Taking up cross, or avoiding it?
- † Have I faced any hardship the last 6 months,
because I am a Christian?
- † Have I *lost* anything lately, because of the Gospel?

REFLECTION



MARK

2. Is my soul saved?

† What is my greatest desire in life?
Is it to love God and do His will, or is it to pursue worldly gods of *possessions, popularity, power, pleasure?*

† If God takes away my job, my house, my life savings tomorrow, will I still *worship Him?*

† If God allows my health to fail terribly, will I still *follow Christ?*



REFLECTION

Mark 8:38

“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

MARK

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“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

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3. Am I ashamed of Jesus?

- † Do I consider suffering for Christ a privilege or a shame?
- † Is my relationship with Jesus more important than all other relationships?
- † Am I willing to tell others about Jesus at the *risk of ridicule, rejection and persecution*?
- † Will I unashamedly invite people for PMC's Christmas Outreach?



REFLECTION

Summary – “To be a Christian”

- † Follow Christ, be willing to suffer worldly loss, personal pain and social embarrassment**
- † Give up (lose!) everything for sake of Gospel**
- † Be unashamed of Christ’s suffering.**

Mark 9:1

And He said to them,

“Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”

MARK