

"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the Victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, Be Ye Stedfast, Unmoveable, always abounding in the Work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 15:57-58 KJV



The Brooklyn Bridge claimed the lives of many men during its construction in the late 1800's, and, when it was built, it was the only way to get to Manhattan Island. John Roebling built the bridge six times stronger than he thought it needed to be. This is one of the reasons why it still stands today. John Roebling died of tetanus from a foot injury before its completion, and his son completed his work. His wife, Emily, was the first to cross it. During tower construction, was the first time men suffered from the "bends" or as it was first known "Caisson's disease." In spite of the deaths, dangers and obstacles the construction was finished. The Bridge stands today as a testament to vision and the persevering labor of many men. The preaching of the Gospel is infinitely more vital to the lives of men than any construction project! We can expect peril as we work, because our adversary is Satan himself, but our labor is "not in vain." Notice it is the "Work of the Lord," not the work of the faithful. "For IT IS GOD WHICH WORKETH in you both to will and to do of HIS GOOD PLEASURE." We shall reap Eternal Rewards, and those who profit from God's Work in in us will be eternally grateful to God for giving us the strength to endure. As eternity commences believers will hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the Joy of thy Lord." As we look back on our lives on earth, we will realize we did absolutely nothing to merit God's pleasure and reward and will be instantly compelled to cast our crowns at the feet of the Blessed Saviour, exclaiming with all the blood-washed throng, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive Glory and Honour and Power: for Thou hast created ALL things, and for Thy Pleasure they are and were created." Believers stand as bright beacons in the black night of sin, illuminating the Path to Eternal Life! Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world." We are the light of the world only so long as we reflect "the Light of the world! God is Light!" I'm reminded of missionary martyr, Jim Elliot, who wrote, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." Jim and four others sacrificed their lives on a strand of sand on the Ucayali River in Ecuador attempting to bring the Gospel to the Auca Indians. The man who speared him to death later came to know Christ through the continued efforts of Elisabeth, Jim's wife. The story is detailed with pictures in her book, "Through Gates Of Splendor." Jim did not consider his life too high a price to pay for the "work of the Lord," and neither should we, because he knew that "our life is hid in Christ with God." Hundreds were inspired by the martyr's deaths to go to the Amazon Forests with the Gospel. My Dad was one of those men. I grew up in the Peruvian jungles of the Amazon. We "are not our own...we are bought with a price." Dad's life verse was Galatians 2:20: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the Faith of the Son of God, Who Loved me, and gave Himself for me." We cannot keep or save our life unless we give it to God for His safe-keeping. He Loves us more than we love ourselves!

We give a life we cannot keep,
Though many tears we often weep,
To serve our Lord, our Life, our KING,
That to Him others we might bring. –CGP

Your existence is worthless if you are not alive in Christ. Without His Life, we are doomed to eternal death!

*"For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for My Sake shall find it."
Matthew 16:25 KJV*