

What Does It Cost To Be A Christian?

"Any of you who does not give up everything he has, cannot be My disciple."

Luke 14:33

I grant freely that it costs little to be a *mere outward Christian*. A man has only got to attend a place of worship twice on Sunday, and to be tolerably moral during the week – and he has gone as far as thousands around him ever go in religion. *All this is cheap and easy work* – it entails no self-denial or self-sacrifice. If this is saving Christianity and will take us to Heaven when we die – we must alter the description of the way of life, and write, *"Wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to Heaven!"*

But it does cost something to be a *real Christian*, according to the standard of the Bible. There are . . .

Enemies to be overcome,

Battles to be fought,

Sacrifices to be made,

An *Egypt* to be forsaken,

A *wilderness* to be passed through,

A *cross* to be carried, and a *race* to be run.

Conversion is not putting a man in a soft armchair, and taking him pleasantly to Heaven. It is the beginning of a mighty conflict, in which it costs much to win the victory. Hence arises the unspeakable importance of "counting the cost."

True Christianity will cost a man . . .

his self-righteousness,

his sins,

his love of ease,

and the favor of the world.

A religion which costs nothing – is *worth* nothing!

**A cheap, easy Christianity, without a *cross* – will prove in the end a useless
Christianity, without a *crown*!**

– *J.C Ryle*