

# Practical Christianity

by Tony Edwards

## Lesson Two "Practical Christianity: The Foundation"

### Self Denial

#### I. Self Denial

- A. Before anyone can truly Practice Christianity they must be willing to die to self.
- B. While I don't agree with everything that Plato said, I do agree with this statement, "The first and best victory is to conquer self."— Plato *Greek Philosopher*
- C. Self denial means putting the will of God above your own will.
- D. Self-denial is genuinely achieved when you put self-interest behind in the interest of others, mainly Jesus Christ.

#### II. Verses on Self Denial

- 1. Luke 14:26-33
  - a) Before you can follow Jesus, realize that it will take great sacrifices.
  - b) Sometimes these sacrifices may include choosing God over family.
- 2. 1 Cor. 9:25-27
  - a) Self Denial involves Self Control.
  - b) It is something learned through process of training on a daily basis.
- 3. Gal 2:20
  - a) Self Denial means that you let Christ rule in your life.
- 4. Col 3:5
  - a) Self Denial comes only after you have committed to put to death our personal sins.
- 5. 1 Peter 2:11-16
  - a) Self Denial aids in maintaining a good reputation.
- 6. Rev. 12:11
  - a) Self Denial means loving the Lord more than your own life

#### III. Examples of Self Denial

- A. There are many examples in Scripture of men and women who chose to put the interest of the Lord above their own.

1. Abraham put the interest of Lot above his own (Gen 13:9; 17:8)
2. Moses put the interest of his people above his own (Heb 11:25)
3. The widow of Zarephath put the interest of Elijah above her own (1Ki 17:12-15)
4. Daniel put the interest of his holiness above his own desire for meat and drink. (Dan 1:8)
5. Esther put the interest of her people above her own life (Es 4:16)
6. Peter and the other apostles put the interest of following Jesus above their own livelihood. (Mt 4:20; 9:9; Mr 1:16-20; 2:14; Lu 5:11,27,28)
7. The widow put the interest of giving to the Lord above her own needs (Luke 1:4)

B. In all of these instances, self denial played a part.

C. These people put to death their self-will to do a will greater than their own.

## **In Conclusion**

Self-Denial is a must. It is the first step in following the Lord. If you are not willing to forsake your own desires and ambitions if it came down to it, then you are not ready to Practice Christianity.