

Daily Devotional, February 2, 2021

'Groundhog Day', (Luke 9:23, NKJV)

“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” (Luke 9:23)

Groundhog Day is observed every year on February 2nd. It is a ‘holiday’ founded on the superstitious premise that if the groundhog sees its shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter. In 1993, a comedy film was made by this name, in which the same day was repeated over and over, day after day. This got me thinking as to what the Christian should be repeating over and over, day after day.

Our text says that the obedient Christian must “**take up his cross daily.**” We are here given directions as to what our approach ought to be in becoming disciples of Jesus Christ. First, one must deny oneself. In other words, the Christian is to lay down his or her own agenda, and put Christ’s agenda first. This means living and promoting conduct in accord with biblical principles. Then, the individual must “**take up his cross daily.**” The cross was an instrument of death, and has become a symbol of sacrifice (Jesus was speaking prophetically here, in this sense). Just as Jesus gave His life for us, we should die to self, repent, and give our lives to God. And then when the alarm goes off every morning, let us joyfully repeat the cycle of repentance and consecration to God’s service.

Are there any items in your agenda that don’t line up with the divine agenda? Are you focusing too much on your own comfort and not enough on spiritual things, your own soul, and the souls of men? Take up your “**cross daily.**” Then repeat, again and again, today, tomorrow, and the day after that. Today is Groundhog Day.