

Robert T. Ketcham
You Must Suffer
March 1964

Unedited Transcript

00:00:00:14 - 00:00:28:21

Robert T. Ketcham

Now we've been talking to you on the high cost of writing paper, and we have been discussing this from the standpoint of second Corinthians 33. Yeah, our manifesto declared to be the Epistle or letter of Christ. Letters are for the purpose of conveying a message to an absentee someone who is with you and you got a message

00:00:29:20 - 00:00:43:20

Robert T. Ketcham

. Jesus Christ is here and the sinner is over here, and he's got a message he wants to get to him. So he writes a letter to him and you're if you're it, you are the letter, not simply a letter bearer.

00:00:43:20 - 00:01:11:02

Robert T. Ketcham

You are that two as well, but you and your person in your conduct, in your behavior. In your submission to the will of God and in your whole reaction to the whole matter of obedience to God and living out a godly life, you are it, you are the letter God, dear son bought your body, as well as

00:01:11:02 - 00:01:25:26

Robert T. Ketcham

the father who lives in them, and he bought your bodies for a purpose that he might live in that body and live his life out through it. Therefore, glorify God in your body. You are not your own. You're bought with a price.

00:01:25:26 - 00:01:44:19

Robert T. Ketcham

You have no more right to your body than I have to yours. Not a bit. It's sold out to Jesus Christ is his property, and he bought it for the express purpose of moving in and living out his life through your hands and feet and vocal organs and so on.

00:01:46:04 - 00:02:03:27

Robert T. Ketcham

And let me say again that here that the only Christ that the unsafe world will ever see until they see him at the judgment seat is a great white from the only Christ the world will ever see is the Christ they see in Christian, Paul said.

00:02:03:27 - 00:02:24:06

Robert T. Ketcham

For me to live is Christ. That means for me to live is Christ to somebody. I, Robert Thomas Ketchum and the as Christ lives his life out in me. I am the only representative. I am the only manifestation of Jesus Christ that somebody will ever see.

00:02:25:28 - 00:02:48:24

Robert T. Ketcham

And that's true of you. What kind of a christ do they see? When they look at you? You're it, you're it. And they judge Christ by what they see in you. And that may be why he doesn't appear to be too attractive to the world because we're not making a very good image for them to look at

00:02:51:12 - 00:03:15:14

Robert T. Ketcham

. Now, the Lord Jesus Christ brought you and me as standing timber and a great forest of pulpwood. He bought the raw material the stop the forest dried millions and millions and millions of standing trees in the forest of potential writing paper.

00:03:16:00 - 00:03:43:01

Robert T. Ketcham

He bought us as the raw pulpwood for the express purpose of transforming us into writing paper, upon which he can write his message to a lost world. And the initial purchase by the one who is the owner of the whole proposition and the one who is going to manufacture those trees into writing paper.

00:03:43:02 - 00:04:07:11

Robert T. Ketcham

It was a costly deal for Jesus Christ. Oh, what a price he paid. And now we've been looking at the cost to us. And the first thing I call your attention to was that there are four processes through which that tree has to go before Joe can get a box or writing paper and write a letter to

00:04:07:11 - 00:04:28:16

Robert T. Ketcham

his sweetie pie before that happens. Something has to happen to that tree. He just doesn't write on that tree and put it in the mailbox, you know? And yet essentially, that's exactly what he does. But it has to be transformed from its raw state into its refined state.

00:04:28:21 - 00:04:42:07

Robert T. Ketcham

And then he can write on it again. And there are four things that has to happen to that tree before that can be done. The first one I pointed out to you was it has to be cut down to the place of death.

00:04:43:06 - 00:05:01:00

Robert T. Ketcham

We have to reckon ourselves to be dead the same. You can't play around with friends. No scene in your life and expect to be a good piece of writing paper for Jesus Christ to put his impressions. On, you can't do that.

00:05:02:05 - 00:05:18:25

Robert T. Ketcham

I'm not talking about seamlessness and I'm talking about this business of having victory, which you can have over, no shame if you know it and before you do it, you don't have to do it if you want to not.

00:05:18:27 - 00:05:43:29

Robert T. Ketcham

The trouble we want to show we do. But if that's the way you want to live your life, you just don't need to be figuring that somebody's going to read Christ who knew very legibly and must be dying out to the whole sin principle in our lives and a renunciation of it and a reckoning ourselves to be

00:05:43:29 - 00:06:04:27

Robert T. Ketcham

dead and alive to God. And now yesterday morning, we dealt with surrender. The next thing that has to happen to that tree lying there in the forest, all of its pretty branches and foliage has to be cut off, and it lies there naked and stripped of everything that made it a thing of beauty.

00:06:04:28 - 00:06:31:07

Robert T. Ketcham

It must surrender. And so yesterday we talked about surrender. And I don't know to whom I should be speaking about this, but I sincerely hope for the benefit of the team and those who were with them that the tape the message yesterday morning may be played back for their benefit.

00:06:31:21 - 00:06:51:25

Robert T. Ketcham

I said some nice things about you yesterday, whether you're a whale of our crowd and I spoke about, uh, surrender. God will never take anything away from you, except that which he sees will hurt you if you keep it.

00:06:52:18 - 00:07:12:11

Robert T. Ketcham

And he just may have seen that victory down. There might have hurt you, and it made it. So he just let it go the other way. And we had a precious time together yesterday morning on this matter of surrender.

00:07:12:23 - 00:07:28:03

Robert T. Ketcham

And I don't know who I should speak to, so I'm speaking to you now. Why not arrange some morning to have that tape played back here for the whole chapel? Those who heard it yesterday won't hurt you hear it again.

00:07:29:08 - 00:07:56:14

Robert T. Ketcham

But I do want the team, uh, for their own encouragement to hear that message that we gave yesterday morning on surrender now. And the next thing that has to happen to that tree that's been cut down and trimmed is loaded on a car and taken over the rail road to lock Haven.

00:07:56:15 - 00:08:20:17

Robert T. Ketcham

Pennsylvania to the pope would need only paper mill. And there there is put into a thing that they call up in that part of the country behind it gets that name because of the racket it makes up and down at such Kahana Valley when it starts chewing up one of those lines.

00:08:22:15 - 00:08:45:14

Robert T. Ketcham

But a derrick is there, lays hole up on one end of a log and it it's swung out over this great big well, if you have you ever seen the old fashioned family coffee grinder about the square open top when you pour a pound of coffee and then you crank it up and grind it?

00:08:46:04 - 00:09:11:13

Robert T. Ketcham

Well, that's exactly what the thing looks like. Only several hundred times bigger. It's a mammoth thing. And this log is upended and dropped down into that hopper and hurling knives and bits and organs. Grab it and twist and turn and suck it down in and cuit up into little pieces of wood like that.

00:09:11:13 - 00:09:37:27

Robert T. Ketcham

Just just rip it and tear it and shredded and break it up into little chunks of torn paper and broken wood. Well, it has to do that if it's going to be writing paper. And so with you and with me, if we're going to be writing paper upon which Jesus Christ can write, there must be the fellowship of

00:09:37:27 - 00:10:05:02

Robert T. Ketcham

his suffering. We must know what it is to suffer with Jesus Christ. Now that's the thing we don't like. That's the thing we shrink from anything that gives us suffering and and uneasiness and unpleasantness. We don't like it, so we shrink away from it and we back away from it.

00:10:05:24 - 00:10:29:03

Robert T. Ketcham

OK, go ahead. That's the way you want it. But you'll never be writing paper for Jesus Christ. Never, never. There's got to be a broken life. There's got to be a life that knows what it is to go down into the black hole for shadows and fill up that which is behind the sufferings of Christ.

00:10:29:24 - 00:11:03:07

Robert T. Ketcham

We've got to know what it is to fellowship with him in his suffering, and so often that is done by personal suffering, by going down into the valley of the shadow, where a heart is ripped and torn and broken, where loved ones are snatched away, where help is taken away and the victim may lie for years upon

00:11:03:07 - 00:11:34:16

Robert T. Ketcham

a bed of pain or twisted out of shape. All of this may happen, and it can be the most blessed thing in the world to you if you take it from him and then decide that and there is this blessed ministry of living so close to him with your head tilted upon his precious bosom until you catch

00:11:35:00 - 00:12:02:29

Robert T. Ketcham

the great, pulsating heartbeat of the love of Jesus Christ for a lost world as you hear the inner shock that must still arise from the heart of our ascended and glorified Lord as he looks out over a world prancing by his cross and paying no attention to it.

00:12:04:14 - 00:12:35:12

Robert T. Ketcham

Lamentations one. Well, while it refers to Israel, I know it doesn't take too much imagination to transfer those words from the lips of the prophet. Israel and put them into the lips of the Lord Jesus born crown, blood soaked but bedraggled male fast to a bloody cross and saying to all who pass by is nothing to you

00:12:36:11 - 00:13:13:29

Robert T. Ketcham

, all. You either pass by the hole and see if there be any slow, like, condemn my myself, which is done under me. Where in the Lord hath the afflicted me on the day of his fierce anger that nothing to you all you get pass by the home and see if there's any sorrow like undermine the Lord Jesus

00:13:13:29 - 00:13:33:02

Robert T. Ketcham

is still saying it not only to a lost world. Hugo getting laid by is cross pay. No attention to it, but he's saying it to born again Christians this morning. Hear me! Is it nothing to you? You let me save your soul.

00:13:33:19 - 00:13:59:21

Robert T. Ketcham

You brought your poor, miserable soul to me and let me save it to get it out of hell and into heaven. And you put the period that you've never carried at my cross. You've never waited there to hear the great sadness of my heart as I still weep and yearn over a lost world.

00:14:00:09 - 00:14:15:20

Robert T. Ketcham

You know nothing about it. You let me save your soul. And then you've taken your body and your interest in all it. Go with it and you've thanked me for saving your soul. And then you will run the rest of the show yourself.

00:14:16:04 - 00:14:34:23

Robert T. Ketcham

You'll go where you want to go, you'll be what you want to be. You'll marry who you want to marry, you buy what you want to buy you and work

where you want to work. And you'll never ask me, never once have you come and said, Lord, you bought this body of mine, as well as the fellow

00:14:34:23 - 00:15:01:29

Robert T. Ketcham

or the fellow who lives inside it. I want your will tell me what you want me to do, where you want me to go and where you lead. I'll follow all that. The people of God, those who have been saved by his grace may know something of what it is not to just pass along with the consciousness

00:15:01:29 - 00:15:29:11

Robert T. Ketcham

of eternal salvation. And you're saved and you're all this and that, but all that we might linger at his cry and hear the sobbing of his heart today over a world that has rejected him and the sorrow which is still added to his heart because of his own safe ones who are ignoring his lordship and their life

00:15:33:05 - 00:15:58:02

Robert T. Ketcham

. If you're going to be good at writing paper upon which he can make his image and you can be a Jesus Christ to somebody a representation of him, his letter, then you're going to have to know what it is not only to die, to sin and surrender to him, but you're going to have to know that this

00:15:58:02 - 00:16:17:23

Robert T. Ketcham

surrender will take you often into the valley of suffering. And that's what we don't like. We shrink away from it. Don't die. Don't do it. Don't do it. Don't back away from suffering. Don't detour the hard spartan life.

00:16:18:10 - 00:16:42:03

Robert T. Ketcham

For I give you my witness after 54 years of walking with him and Mrs. Ketchum would stand here in this platform and bear witness with me this morning that the most lovely thing the dearest, the sweetest thing that we have ever known about Jesus Christ.

00:16:42:22 - 00:17:10:20

Robert T. Ketcham

We found them out in the shadows, all the beauties of his person, and all that we have found up in the great mountain peaks of the blaze of sunlight of happiness. And what have you? But there isn't enough money in all of this universe to buy one hour of what we found out about Jesus Christ down in

00:17:10:20 - 00:17:40:22

Robert T. Ketcham

the deep, dark black night of sorrow and suffering you all. There are so many lovely things in Jesus Christ that you will never know were there until the experience of suffering with him elicits them and brings out that Ministry of Health to you.

00:17:42:05 - 00:18:01:25

Robert T. Ketcham

So don't dodge this suffering. Don't, don't shrink away from the unpleasant thing. You say, Well, I still I still just try to stay alone. No, no, no. It's not. That's not what. Oh, that's not for me. That's not for me.

00:18:02:25 - 00:18:25:06

Robert T. Ketcham

OK. That's the way you want it. I'm not going to un-Christian you, but I wouldn't give you a \$0.10 a box full for your right and paper. You I wouldn't. Look, my dear friend is the servant above his law.

00:18:28:22 - 00:18:59:05

Robert T. Ketcham

You are just a few days before Irene Farrell was killed and Ruth Heggie nearly so out of my joy to read a letter out in California that Ruth had written just about three days before the massacre there on the station to a friend of hers in California.

00:19:01:02 - 00:19:21:00

Robert T. Ketcham

And she said, We don't know what is coming to pass around us. Things are getting pretty serious. And she wound up her letter with this statement. What may the Dear Lord help us to glorify him, whether by life or by death?

00:19:21:22 - 00:19:48:05

Robert T. Ketcham

Shine, Ruth? How little she knew then, how close he was to having to demonstrate that. And she did. She did. Who are you and who am I to say we will not see her story anyhow? Are we above our law?

00:19:48:16 - 00:20:02:24

Robert T. Ketcham

Are we to let him take the path of suffering? And then we prance along up on the sunny hill while we watch him down in the valley, going through the suffering and we refuse to fellowship with him down there.

00:20:04:22 - 00:20:20:27

Robert T. Ketcham

We refused to take the path of obedience, which we know if we take it will cost us something. It will cost us and it'll cost us loved ones. It may cost us our trust. It may cost us a pension.

00:20:20:29 - 00:20:39:03

Robert T. Ketcham

It may cost us our job. It may cost us the love of some of our family. And we know it's going to do it if we follow him in obedience and therefore we won't do it. OK. But you won't be very good writing paper.

00:20:39:07 - 00:21:10:01

Robert T. Ketcham

No. But all the stone man, the woman that's willing to go down there and walk with him through the black shadow. Oh, the of the the Sanctifying Ministry of Suffering with Christ. Well, I say no, it's not for me.

00:21:10:05 - 00:21:44:13

Robert T. Ketcham

Not for me. Hear me again. Are you about your own listening to me? If all of the black dark that has covered the Earth since darkness covered the Earth back there in Genesis down to the last total eclipse of the Sun, if all of this awful black darkness could be gathered together in one awful pile of dirt

00:21:44:15 - 00:22:27:18

Robert T. Ketcham

near Manchester in one terrible darkness, it would be blazing sunlight compared to that awful black night that wrapped itself around my lord when he went down with my halo in his body before the floods of all time. From the time when the waters covered the face of the Earth in Genesis, one tore down through Noah's flood and

00:22:27:21 - 00:22:56:05

Robert T. Ketcham

the last great tidal wave. If all of these floods can be masked in one great towering crashing wave coming blazing and blasting this way all in one, it would be but the gentle lapping of a little wave lit on the sandy shore compared to that hour, when all the waves and the blues of the Wrath of God

00:22:56:12 - 00:23:23:12

Robert T. Ketcham

against the sins of the world went crashing over the head of my beloved and from its depths. I hear him crying or. And I believe I going over me. Oh, right. Oh, it's all right for him. But excuse me.

00:23:28:09 - 00:23:57:20

Robert T. Ketcham

There's a passage in Philippines, it says, not only given to you to believe on Christ, but to suffer for his namesake. What's that? Yeah, that's right. That's part of your inheritance. This business of suffering with Christ is such a wonderful thing that that is part of your inheritance.

00:23:59:18 - 00:24:20:06

Robert T. Ketcham

Well, we we're so grateful and so thankful that that he saved us because we believe on him. But the rest of that is our inheritance to, you know, given to us not only to believe in him, but to suffer.

00:24:21:20 - 00:24:46:20

Robert T. Ketcham

Don't don't do you, dear friend. Don't stay away from the hard place because it's going to hurt you or down there in the shadows. You'll find out things about Jesus Christ that you never knew existed and you would never need to know, apart from the shadows down there.

00:24:47:15 - 00:25:19:22

Robert T. Ketcham

Oh, how wonderful he become. All right. When the Black Knight gathers around you and perhaps pain is racing through your body like lightning expresses laden with the cargo of sharp, agonizing pain, or whether it may be distress of mind and heart and concern is tearing at your very brain.

00:25:21:09 - 00:26:03:23

Robert T. Ketcham

Oh, how we just to turn and see him standing there in the shadow and as we cast ourselves upon him, I feel his arms around us and drawing us closer to his own great heart and say when they are going through the water, they shall not overflow thee and I walk through the fire.

00:26:04:17 - 00:26:45:06

Robert T. Ketcham

It shall not Kindle upon the they rhyme the lord like God, the holy one. Thy redeemer good. And if you don't want to go into the path of suffering, you miss all of that. Now, there's one further process, and with that, we'll close this particular subject when this broken, twisted, torn little bits of wood are through with

00:26:45:06 - 00:27:07:05

Robert T. Ketcham

the suffering back here, they are spewed out into a great vat of acid and you put your hand in it and hold it there a minute and you wouldn't have any hand to bring out in these acid baths.

00:27:07:22 - 00:27:37:13

Robert T. Ketcham

These little chunks of broken, twisted wood are reduced to the finest hope you can imagine. Farther down the line of that's where the process is about completed. You can pick their stuff up and you never had flour in your fingers or butter that is finer than that.

00:27:41:29 - 00:28:18:19

Robert T. Ketcham

Then it goes on into cleansing bars, where the little hard pieces that may not have yet been actually reduced to this smooth pulp are drained out and cleansed out until finally way down at the end of that long paper mill miles and miles of great, gleaming white paper without a flaw in it anywhere.

00:28:19:17 - 00:28:40:02

Robert T. Ketcham

Go rolling up on great rollers. They're grabbed by derricks and pushed into boxcars and off to Philadelphia. They go, and in a couple of weeks you go over to the drugstore and pick it up. In the Saturday Evening Post to the Ladies Home Journal printed and written all over.

00:28:45:17 - 00:29:06:07

Robert T. Ketcham

Some of it is shunted off into a special track of special refinement and coloring and what have you. And it's put up in nice little stationery boxes stacked up on the counter at the drugstore, and Joe goes over and buys a box of it and writes to his sweetie pie.

00:29:11:17 - 00:29:45:02

Robert T. Ketcham

Yeah. So not only dying out to sin, surrender to his will for your life, knowing what it is to take the path of obedience, even though that takes you into the darkest, deepest shadows of your life. Suffering with him but this life of daily cleansing, daily cleansing hour by hour, the blood of Jesus Christ keeps right on

00:29:45:02 - 00:30:20:08

Robert T. Ketcham

cleansing. Keep right on cleansing, keeps right on cleansing so that in your body. Men and women around, you may see the writing of Jesus Christ in your life. All of this. All of this is a costly business. It's a costly business, my friend.

00:30:21:19 - 00:30:51:05

Robert T. Ketcham

But the greatest prize of all that was paid was paid for the raw material when he bought not only your soul, but your body, and which your soul is at the awful cost of Calvary. And now the cost to you and to me, the cost to you and to me of coming into a sober home life of

00:30:51:05 - 00:31:03:25

Robert T. Ketcham

dedication to him in the matter of the first of known sin in our life. The thing that, you know, to be wrong, I'm not talking about the things you don't know. I'm talking about the things you do know.

00:31:08:00 - 00:31:43:15

Robert T. Ketcham

And to have that surrendered to him and put to death and then to say, Lord, whatever I have, whatever I am, I now put it into your hands in total complete unconditional, irrevocable surrender. I walk out of the throne room of my life and renounce my right to walk back into that throne room.

00:31:45:00 - 00:32:08:20

Robert T. Ketcham

Thou shalt be lord and king and ruler of my life. Thou shalt have the preeminent yes, yes. And Lord is going to take me again and again and again and again into a place where it's not going to be pleasant.

00:32:09:26 - 00:32:27:15

Robert T. Ketcham

It's going to be rough and tough. It's going to take me into places where I'll cry myself to sleep at night. It's going to take me into places where my face will be flushed with the shame of humiliation as people make fun of me.

00:32:28:00 - 00:32:54:16

Robert T. Ketcham

I know, I know. But dear Lord, it's nothing compared to what you went through for me and I'm not above my master. Teach me help or hurt as I follow you and fellowship with you and your suffering. Keep me so close to your own great heart, dear Lord, that I may catch something of the inner sobs of

00:32:54:16 - 00:33:18:10

Robert T. Ketcham

it as I hear you weep over a lost world and teach me how to weep with you and then Lord this life of mine as I travel through this world of contamination on every side. I know, I know, I know there's contamination everywhere.

00:33:18:24 - 00:33:44:22

Robert T. Ketcham

But Lord, will you just keep me clean, keep me clean, and my thought creep me clean and my desires keep me clean in my affections. Keep me clean in my department so that no one will see anything in me that is unlike Christ, then my friend.

00:33:45:20 - 00:34:06:20

Robert T. Ketcham

It can be said, if you are manifestly declared to be the letter of Christ Father in heaven, make it show in all of our heart for Jesus, say a man.