

What Does the Cross Mean?*

The Cross Means the Giving of One's Self

Deny Family

Matthew 10:34-39

34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 "For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; 36 and a man's enemies will be the members of his household. 37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 "And he who does not **take his cross** and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 "He who has found his life shall lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake shall find it.

Luke 14:26-28

26 "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. 27 "Whoever does not carry his **own cross** and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

Deny Self

Matthew 16:24-27

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up **his cross**, and follow Me. 25 "For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it. 26 "For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Luke 9:23-26

23 And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up **his cross** daily, and follow Me. 24 "For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. 25 "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself? 26 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

The Cross Means Giving up False Teachings (Denominations, Sectarians, Religions of the World)

Philippians 3:18-21

18 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are **enemies of the cross of Christ**, 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

Galatians 6:14-16

14 But may it never be that I should boast, except in **the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. 1

Ephesians 2:14-17

For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, 16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God **through the cross**, by it having put to death the enmity.

The Cross Means Having the Mind of Christ

Philippians 2:5-11

5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming **obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross**. 9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Colossians 2:12-14

12 having been buried with him in baptism, wherein ye were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead through your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, you, (I say), did he make alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses; 14 having blotted out the bond written in ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us: and he hath taken it out of the way, **nailling it to the cross**; (ASV)

Hebrews 12:1-3

12 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before **Him endured the cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

1 Peter 2:24-25

24 and He Himself bore our sins in **His body on the cross** that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. 25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Cross Means Being Saved by the Power of God

1 Corinthians 1:17-22

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, that **the cross of Christ should not be made void**.

18 For **the word of the cross** is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

And the cleverness of the clever I will set aside."

20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.