

## Doctrine of the Cross

### The Biblical References

1. The cross is a sign of discipleship.
  - *Matthew 10:38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.*
  - *Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*
2. The cross is a sign of death. It was cumbersome to carry, especially after a Roman scourge. On His way to Calvary, Jesus needed someone to help Him bear His cross.
  - *Matthew 27:32 And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.*
  - *Mark 15:21 And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross.*
  - *Luke 23:26 And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus.*
3. People mocked Jesus as He hung on the cross, and called for Him to come down.
  - *Matthew 27:40 And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.*
  - *Matthew 27:42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.*
  - *Mark 15:30 Save thyself, and come down from the cross.*
4. The cross is a sign of self-denial.
  - *Mark 8:34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*
  - *Luke 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*

5. The cross demands a radical decision.
  - *Mark 10:21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.*
6. The cross demands belief in Christ, not simply the miracles He performed.
  - *Mark 15:32 Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him reviled him.*
7. A person cannot be a disciple of Jesus without bearing his own cross.
  - *Luke 14:27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.*
8. Jesus bore His cross to a place called Golgotha.
  - *John 19:17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:*
9. At Calvary, Pilate placed a sign on the cross of Jesus.
  - *John 19:19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.*
10. Three women named Mary stood at the cross of Jesus during His terrible ordeal.
  - *John 19:25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.*
11. The body of Jesus did not remain on the cross on the Sabbath.
  - *John 19:31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.*
12. The preaching of the cross is not according to human wisdom. The natural man cannot understand the concept of a substitutionary Saviour for sinners.
  - *1 Corinthians 1:17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.*
  - *1 Corinthians 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*

13. Had Paul and the other apostles preached a gospel of legalism, the cross would not have been offensive to the Jews.

- *Galatians 5:11 And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.*

14. Faithful Christians will suffer persecution for proclaiming the gospel of the cross.

- *Galatians 6:12 As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.*

15. The glory of the gospel is united to the cross.

- *Galatians 6:14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.*

16. The death of deaths, in the death of Christ on the cross at Calvary is what reconciles a person to God.

- *Ephesians 2:16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:*

17. The cross is a sign of the humility of Christ.

- *Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

18. The heart of the Christian weeps to realize there are enemies of the cross of Jesus.

- *Philippians 3:18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:*

19. The cross is a sign of the place of peace with God.

- *Colossians 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.*

20. Because of the cross, God can blot out sins.

- *Colossians 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;*

21. The cross is the sign of salvation. Jesus endured the cross in order to save individuals, and receive the glory of heaven.

- *Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*