

Adult Sunday School
Queen Street Baptist Church
Dr. Johnie E. Hopkins, Sr.
Week 1: May 2020

TOPIC: "WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO TAKE UP YOUR CROSS DAILY?"

Text: 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.

25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

BACKGROUND

In this period, while Easter is still fresh in our minds and Pentecost is on the horizon, we as Christians must evaluate *what the cross really means to each of us*. The word Christian suggests that one is of Christ, a follower.

In **Matthew 16:13**, Jesus asks the question, "*who do you say that I am?*" There is also another question that we must all answer personally -- **What does it mean to take up your cross daily?**

The cross has become a symbol often taken for granted. While it was two large pieces of wood, it was also an "emblem of death, suffering and shame.

Persons to be crucified were whipped severely and were forced to carry their cross to the place of execution. There were many spectators who consisted of local citizens and neighboring communities.

Jesus, who knew no sin, was born to die for our sins because the blood of sinless animals could no longer cover the sins of sinful mankind as recorded in **Hebrews 10: 4**. Jesus knew on His first day as a human that He would die for us, In fact **Hebrew 10: 7-10**, states that He volunteered to

sacrifice His life for the sins of mankind. Jesus' hands and feet would be nailed to the cross. After His death, a spear would be thrust in His side. Jesus knew He would die the cruel method of crucifixion. To say die is an understatement because we all expect to die at some point. Jesus did not die. He was executed-- a method reserved for putting to death the worst specimen of mankind truly tainted and patterned after Satan himself. Jesus was executed for crimes He did not commit. But He took the place of fornicators, adulterers, murderers, deceivers, liars, maligners, gossipers, and all other unrighteousness and wickedness. Jesus was executed for you and I. The crimes against God all required a death sentence by cruel and unusual punishment. Christ satisfied God's requirement for sin. What appeared to be a loss turned out to be a victory for Jesus. Just as His death was a victory for us, so is His victory over death, for in doing so we received redemption and everlasting life.

DO NOT IMAGINE THE CROSS. SEE IT! "NO CROSS, NO CROWN".

STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. How do current issues in society affect your personal beliefs?
2. How do the behaviors of public figures influence your thoughts and actions?
3. What can we do to preserve our faith and Christian character in the world today?

STAY CONNECTED:

1. Contact a member of our Sunday School class or a member of Queen Street and discuss the three study questions.