

Lessons on Matthew: The Cross of Christ



And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. † And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” † Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. † This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. † Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified. † We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. † For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. † But we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those

who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. † For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. † None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. † For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. † I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. † It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. † But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. † And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. † It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. † But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. † And might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. † And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. † For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. † And through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. † By canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. † Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

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