

# The Cross of Christ

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# The Cross of Christ

## Introduction

The Cross ... to the Greeks, Romans and Phoenicians it represents the instrument of vile, repulsive punishment, horror and death, but to the regenerate Christian, it symbolizes all that is holy and precious ... eternal life through the vicarious death of Messiah Jesus.

Many of the early Christians put this symbol upon their tombstone as the emblem of victory and hope of Jesus' conquering death and the symbol for eternal life through the resurrection of the dead. The cross represents the substitutionary death of Jesus our Passover Lamb.

1 Corinthians 5:7

¶ Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are [in fact] unleavened. For **Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.**

The sacrificial offering of Christ is the expiatory sacrifice of Himself in our stead as the atonement and propitiation to God on our behalf.

Romans 3:25

whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. [This was] to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;

1 John 4:10

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins.

The cross of Christ reconciles us to God.

Romans 5:10

For if while we were enemies **we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son**, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Ephesians 2:16

and might **reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross**, by it having put to death the enmity.

Colossians 1:20

and **through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross**; through Him, [I say,] whether things on earth or things in heaven.

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In Scripture, the cross is spoke of by Jesus in a prophetic manner to represent the daily denial of self, bearing afflictions and trials to all who follow Jesus.

Matthew 10:38

"And he who does not take his **cross** and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his **cross** and follow Me.

Mark 8:34

And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his **cross** and follow Me.

Luke 9:23

And He was saying to *them* all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his **cross** daily and follow Me.

In fact, Jesus proclaims that any who do not follow him in His sufferings and afflictions, is not worthy of Him, nor can one be His disciple.

Luke 14:27

"Whoever does not carry his own **cross** and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

This had to be a strange teaching to those who heard this message. The horror of the cross was known by the Jews of Jesus' day as a Roman method of inflicting a painful and agonizing execution of criminals and enemies of the state. Was Jesus really teaching that his followers need to walk the way of crucifixion and death? Little did they know then, but yes, He indeed was. There is a cost to following Jesus.

Luke 14:28

"For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it?

Luke 14:33

"So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

Denying self, carrying your cross daily, preparing to endure suffering, afflictions and trials ... why is it then that so many so-called Christians think following Jesus is a walk in the park? The answer is because they attend a local church that does not teach the true gospel message. They've removed whatever is unpleasant to the ears which transforms that gospel into no gospel at all. Some will even go so

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far as to deny the teaching of Jesus with statements like, "that was for the Jews only."

The apostate teachings of dispensationalism is proclaiming a false gospel by omission. They do not teach the truth on the cost of following Jesus and have even gone so far to fabricate two returns of Jesus with their false and non-biblical pre-tribulation rapture teaching. This is a futile attempt to eliminate all forms of suffering for those who seek to follow Jesus. What an abomination!

1 Corinthians 1:18

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

The suffering Christ did so to restore us and reconcile us to a right relationship with God and paid the ultimate penalty for our sins in our stead. He does not release the Christian from having to carry his cross *daily*. If you live the Christian life and am obedient to our Lord Jesus, you will need to endure persecutions for your faith. The only way to avoid the persecutions promised you by Jesus is to not live the Christian faith and not talk the talk, nor walk the walk. The message of the cross has become a stumbling block for many who purport themselves to be Christian.

Galatians 5:11

But I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still persecuted? Then the **stumbling block of the cross** has been abolished.

Many claiming Christianity are repulsed by the message of the cross. It involves realities that many do not want to face.

James 1:12

Blessed is a man who **perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved**, he will receive the crown of life which [the Lord] has promised to those who love Him.

To be approved means to be tested to see if one is truly a regenerate Christian, by living a life of obedience to our Lord. Those who do not ... are not.

Galatians 6:14

But may it never be that I would boast, except in the **cross** of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which **the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world**.

What Paul is preaching in the above verse that the world and the things of the world are dead to him, they no longer exist ... and that he is dead to the world, the worldly things no longer entice him. We must follow Jesus and crucify our flesh, our desires for the things that are not of God, and allow the transforming

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power of the Holy Spirit to rule our lives. Those who love the world and the things of the world are *carnal* and not Christian. There is no such concept in Scripture for the term *Carnal Christian* ... the two are mutually exclusive. If you are Christian, you are not carnal ... and if you are carnal, you are not Christian.

Romans 8:6-7

- 6 For to be **carnally minded is death**; but to be **spiritually minded is life** and peace.
- 7 Because the **carnal mind is enmity against God**: for it is **not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be**.

The term *Carnal Christian* is a term invented by dispensationalists to explain away their false teaching and false understanding that states you can accept Jesus as your Savior before you accept Him as Lord. If Jesus is not your Lord ... neither is He your Savior! The Christian life is a transformed life.

Romans 12:2

**And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is **good and acceptable and perfect**.

The term perfect as used in Scripture would be better rendered as fully mature or complete. It does not necessarily mean free from sin or error. When we bear our cross it is speaking of the sanctified Christian life committed to living a life of obedience to our Lord and master Jesus Christ.

## Exegesis

### **4716 *staurov stauros stow-ros'***

from the base of [2476](#); TDNT-7:572,1071; n m *an upright stake*, hence *a cross* (the Rom. instrument of crucifixion):—

**NAS**-cross (27).

**AV**-cross 28; 28

1) a cross

1a) a well known instrument of most cruel and ignominious punishment, borrowed by the Greeks and Romans from the Phoenicians; to it were affixed among the Romans, down to the time of Constantine the Great, the guiltiest criminals, particularly the basest slaves, robbers, the authors and abettors of insurrections, and occasionally in the provinces, at the arbitrary pleasure of the governors, upright and peaceable men also, and even Roman citizens themselves

1b) the crucifixion which Christ underwent 2 an upright "stake", esp. a pointed one, used as such in fences or palisades

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### **3586** *xulon xulon xoo'-lon*

from another form of the base of **3582**; TDNT-5:37,665; n n a prim. word; wood:—

**NAS**-clubs (5), cross (4), stocks (1), tree (7), wood (3).

**AV**-tree 10, staff 5, wood 3, stocks 1; 19

1) wood

1a) that which is made of wood

1a1) as a beam from which any one is suspended, a gibbet, a cross

1a2) a log or timber with holes in which the feet, hands, neck of prisoners were inserted and fastened with thongs

1a3) a fetter, or shackle for the feet

1a4) a cudgel, stick, staff

2) a tree

## Scriptures

### **4716** *staurov stauros stow-ros'*

Matthew 10:38

"And he who does not take his **cross** <**4716 stauros**> and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his **cross** <**4716 stauros**> and follow Me.

Matthew 27:32

As they were coming out, they found a man of Cyrene named Simon, whom they pressed into service to bear His **cross** <**4716 stauros**>.

Matthew 27:40

and saying, "You who *are going to* destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the **cross** <**4716 stauros**>."

Matthew 27:42

"He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the **cross** <**4716 stauros**>, and we will believe in Him.

Mark 8:34

And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his **cross** <**4716 stauros**> and follow Me.

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Mark 15:21

They \*pressed into service a passer-by coming from the country, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), to bear His **cross <4716 stauros>**.

Mark 15:30

save Yourself, and come down from the **cross <4716 stauros>!**"

Mark 15:32

"Let *this* Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the **cross <4716 stauros>**, so that we may see and believe!" Those who were crucified with Him were also insulting Him.

Luke 9:23

And He was saying to *them* all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his **cross <4716 stauros>** daily and follow Me.

Luke 14:27

"Whoever does not carry his own **cross <4716 stauros>** and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

Luke 23:26

When they led Him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, coming in from the country, and placed on him the **cross <4716 stauros>** to carry behind Jesus.

John 19:17

They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, bearing His own **cross <4716 stauros>**, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha.

John 19:19

Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the **cross <4716 stauros>**. It was written, "JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS."

John 19:25

Therefore the soldiers did these things. But standing by the **cross <4716 stauros>** of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

John 19:31

Then the Jews, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies would not remain on the **cross <4716 stauros>** on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.

1 Corinthians 1:17

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For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the **cross <4716 stauros>** of Christ would not be made void.

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the word of the **cross <4716 stauros>** is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Galatians 5:11

But I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still persecuted? Then the stumbling block of the **cross <4716 stauros>** has been abolished.

Galatians 6:12

Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh try to compel you to be circumcised, simply so that they will not be persecuted for the **cross <4716 stauros>** of Christ.

Galatians 6:14

But may it never be that I would boast, except in the **cross <4716 stauros>** of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Ephesians 2:16

and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the **cross <4716 stauros>**, by it having put to death the enmity.

Philippians 2:8

Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a **cross <4716 stauros>**.

Philippians 3:18

For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* enemies of the **cross <4716 stauros>** of Christ,

Colossians 1:20

and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His **cross <4716 stauros>**; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Colossians 2:14

having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the **cross <4716 stauros>**.

Hebrews 12:2

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fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the **cross <4716 stauros>**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

### **3586 xulon xulon xoo'-lon**

Acts 5:30

"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a **cross <3586 xulon>**.

Acts 10:39

"We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a **cross <3586 xulon>**.

Acts 13:29

"When they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the **cross <3586 xulon>** and laid Him in a tomb.

Galatians 3:13

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A **TREE <3586 xulon>**"—

1 Peter 2:24

and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the **cross <3586 xulon>**, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

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Matthew 26:47

While He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a large crowd with swords and **clubs <3586 xulon>**, *who came* from the chief priests and elders of the people.

Matthew 26:55

At that time Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and **clubs <3586 xulon>** to arrest Me as *you would* against a robber? Every day I used to sit in the temple teaching and you did not seize Me.

Mark 14:43

Immediately while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, *\*came up* accompanied by a crowd with swords and **clubs <3586 xulon>**, *who were* from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.

Mark 14:48

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And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and **clubs <3586 xulon>** to arrest Me, as *you would* against a robber?"

Luke 22:52

Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders who had come against Him, "Have you come out with swords and **clubs <3586 xulon>** as you would against a robber?"

Luke 23:31

"For if they do these things when the **tree <3586 xulon>** is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Acts 16:24

and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the **stocks <3586 xulon>**.

1 Corinthians 3:12

Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, **wood <3586 xulon>**, hay, straw,

Revelation 2:7

'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the **tree <3586 xulon>** of life which is in the Paradise of God.'

Revelation 18:12

cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every *kind of* citron **wood <3586 xulon>** and every article of ivory and every article *made* from very costly **wood <3586 xulon>** and bronze and iron and marble,

Revelation 22:2

in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the **tree <3586 xulon>** of life, bearing twelve *kinds of* fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the **tree <3586 xulon>** were for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 22:14

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the **tree <3586 xulon>** of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.

Revelation 22:19

and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the **tree <3586 xulon>** of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.