

A GODLY MAN AND THE CROSS

MATTHEW 10:37

37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

MATTHEW 10:38

38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

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Crucifixion was in use among the Egyptians, the Carthaginians, the Persians, the Assyrians, Scythians, Indians, Germans, and from the earliest times among the Greeks and Romans. It was unanimously considered the most horrible form of death.

Among the Romans the degradation was also a part of the infliction, and the punishment if applied to freemen was used only in the case of the vilest criminals. The one being crucified was stripped naked of all his clothes, and then followed the most awful moment of all.

He was laid down upon the implement of torture. His arms were stretched along the cross beams, and at the center of the open palms the point of a huge iron nail was placed, which, by the blow of a mallet, was driven home into the wood.

Then through either foot separately, or possibly through both together, as they were placed one over the other, another huge nail tore its way through the quivering flesh.

Then the "accursed tree" with its living human burden was slowly heaved up and the end firmly fixed in a hole in the ground. The feet were but a little raised above the earth. The victim was in full reach of every hand that might choose to strike.

A death by crucifixion seems to have included all that pain and death can have of the horrible and ghastly, -- dizziness, cramp, thirst, starvation, sleeplessness, traumatic fever, tetanus, publicity of shame, long continuance of torment, horror of anticipation, mortification of untended wounds,

all intensified just up to the point which they can be endured at all, but stopping just short of the point which would give the sufferer the relief of unconsciousness.

The unnatural position made every movement painful; the lacerated veins and crushed tendons throbbed with incessant anguish; the wounds, inflamed by exposure, gradually gangrened;

the arteries, especially of the head and the stomach, became swollen and oppressed with surcharged blood; and, while each variety of misery went on gradually increasing, there was added to them the intolerable pang of a burning raging thirst. Such was the death to which Christ was doomed.

The crucified was watched, according to custom, by a party of four soldiers, with their centurion, whose express office was to prevent the stealing of the body.

This was necessary from the lingering character of the death, which sometimes did not occur even for three days, and was at last the result of gradual benumbing and starvation.

Fracture of the legs was especially adopted by the Jews to hasten death. In most cases the body was suffered to rot on the cross by the action of the sun and rain, or to be devoured by birds and

beasts. Burial was generally therefore forbidden. This form of punishment was abolished by Constantine.

MATTHEW 10:38

38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

MATTHEW 16:24

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.

MATTHEW 16:25

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

MARK 8:34

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.

MARK 8:35

35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

JOHN 8:31

31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

MARK 10:17

17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

MARK 10:18

18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

MARK 10:19

19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

MARK 10:20

20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

MARK 10:21

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.

MARK 10:22

22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

LUKE 9:23

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.

LUKE 14:26

26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

GENESIS 29:30

30 And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years.

GENESIS 29:31

31 And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren.

LUKE 14:26

26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

LUKE 14:27

27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

I CORINTHIANS 1:17

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.

I CORINTHIANS 1:18

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.

I CORINTHIANS 1:22

22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

I CORINTHIANS 1:23

23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

I CORINTHIANS 1:24

24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

GALATIANS 5:11

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

GALATIANS 6:12

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.

GALATIANS 6:13

13 For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.