



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE CROSS?

I was surprised the other day when I saw a Christian and asked him if he would wear the cross. His answer was that "it is sacrilege to wear the cross". This was a shock as the man had on a hat proclaiming Jesus.

Without the cross we would be lost, without it there would be no Easter, forgiveness, or eternal life. It is truly a symbol of these things and many more.

Jesus reminds us in Luke 9:23-25 "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it". Here He refers to the symbol of the cross. We must carry it daily, showing our faith in Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 1:13-19 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul? I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, so no one can say that you were baptized into my name. (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel-not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." Here again we see the significance of the cross and its meaning.

Paul regarded the cross as God's saving instrumentality. Perish and saved (present tenses, but frequentative, rather than durative) vividly portray the constant stream of the lost toppling into eternity

without Christ, and the fewer, but still constant, stream of the saved entering the door of eternal fellowship with Christ.

Phil 3:18-21 For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. Here we see another representation of the cross, by referring to those who choose to be enemies of the cross.

Col 2:13-15 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. The cross is a living representation of the things Jesus has done for us by hanging on the tree. We should respect this symbol for what it represents. Wear it proudly. Let it be a symbol to others of what you stand for in your life. Let the sacrifice Jesus made that day live on in the memories of all mankind forever.