

Taking Up One's Cross Is Essential

Matthew 10:38-And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. (KJV)

Responsibly taking up one's personal cross is essential in following Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is ever-present to help believers in taking up personal crosses. Jesus Christ is the Goal and the Constant Presence of believers following Him. The Lord Jesus Christ reassures believers of the value of taking up his or her cross. The Holy Scriptures attest to and educate believers on taking up the personal cross.

Mark 8:34-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. (KJV)

The personal cross in life may seem excessively burdensome to each believer. The weight, stress and pain associated with the personal cross can appear too great. Jesus Christ is present with the believer united with Him in faith going forward. The Lord Jesus Christ established the primary example of taking up the Cross. Believers do well to look to Jesus' example in dealing with life's personal crosses.

Luke 14:27-And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. (KJV)

Believers enter the life in Jesus Christ at Baptism under the Sign of the Cross. Christ's Cross is present during the believer's life from Baptism unto life eternal. Taking up the personal cross in life is inseparable with Christ Crucified and Risen. Believers experience new life in Jesus Christ when taking up the personal cross. Jesus Christ transforms the believer responsibly taking up his or her personal cross.

John 19:17-And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: (KJV)

The Holy Scriptures serve to inform and guide believers about the crosses in life. Attentive believers find strength and nourishment for life in the Holy Scriptures. God's enduring love and presence are revealed and verified in the Holy Scriptures. Christ on the Cross is the irrefutable evidence of His Divine Love for each person. Faith in the Crucified and Risen Christ is revealed in taking one's personal cross.

1 Corinthians 1:18-For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. (KJV)

Believers learn and appreciate the power of God centered in the Cross of Christ. Jesus Christ revealed His power over death when He was voluntarily crucified. The Lord Jesus Christ rose from the Tomb following His crucifixion and burial. The joyous Paschal declaration "Christ is Risen" continues to renew the world! Believers taking up their crosses believe in and rejoice in the Risen Christ.

Afterfeast of Exaltation of the Precious Life-giving Cross.

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