

Carrying Two Crosses

The background is a dark, monochromatic scene. In the center, a simple black cross is silhouetted against a slightly lighter, circular glow. Below the cross, a dark path or road leads from the bottom center towards the cross, flanked by two large, dark, triangular shapes that resemble the wings of a cross or a stylized landscape. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

Matthew 16:24-26

Carrying Two Crosses

- The purpose of this is not to address the suffering of the Savior, although this may serve to illustrate it. It is designed for two purposes:
 - To demonstrate that there is nothing honorable or glorious about crucifixion or crosses
 - To help us to understand there will be nothing pleasant about bearing our own
- Would you be surprised to learn that the cross of Christ is not enough to get you to heaven, that you need a second cross?

Carrying Two Crosses

- Matt. 16:24-26 - “Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

The Cross Of Christ

- The cross of Jesus, by itself, is not enough to get anyone to heaven.
- If it were, everyone would be saved
 - Titus 2:11 - “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men”
- However, many will be lost
 - Matt. 7:13-14 - “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

The Cross Of Christ

- The cross of Christ is fully sufficient for its purpose: to create a means for humankind to be saved and go to heaven
 - 2Cor. 5:21 - “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”
 - 1Cor. 1:18 - “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.”
 - Eph. 2:16 - “and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.”
 - Titus 2:14 - “who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people...”

Our Own Cross

- Bearing our own cross, by itself, is not enough to get us to heaven.
- Salvation comes to us through the Divine agency of the cross of Christ and through the human activity of bearing our own cross.

Our Own Cross

- Matt. 7:21-23 - “Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”
- Eph. 2:8-10 - “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Our Own Cross

- Phil. 2:12-13 - “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”
- Titus 2:11-13 - “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ”

Our Own Cross

- James 2:20-26 - “But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. 25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

Carrying Two Crosses

- The cross of Christ is a settled matter; Jesus did his part. The only matter in question is whether we will whole-heartedly take up our cross and follow Jesus.

