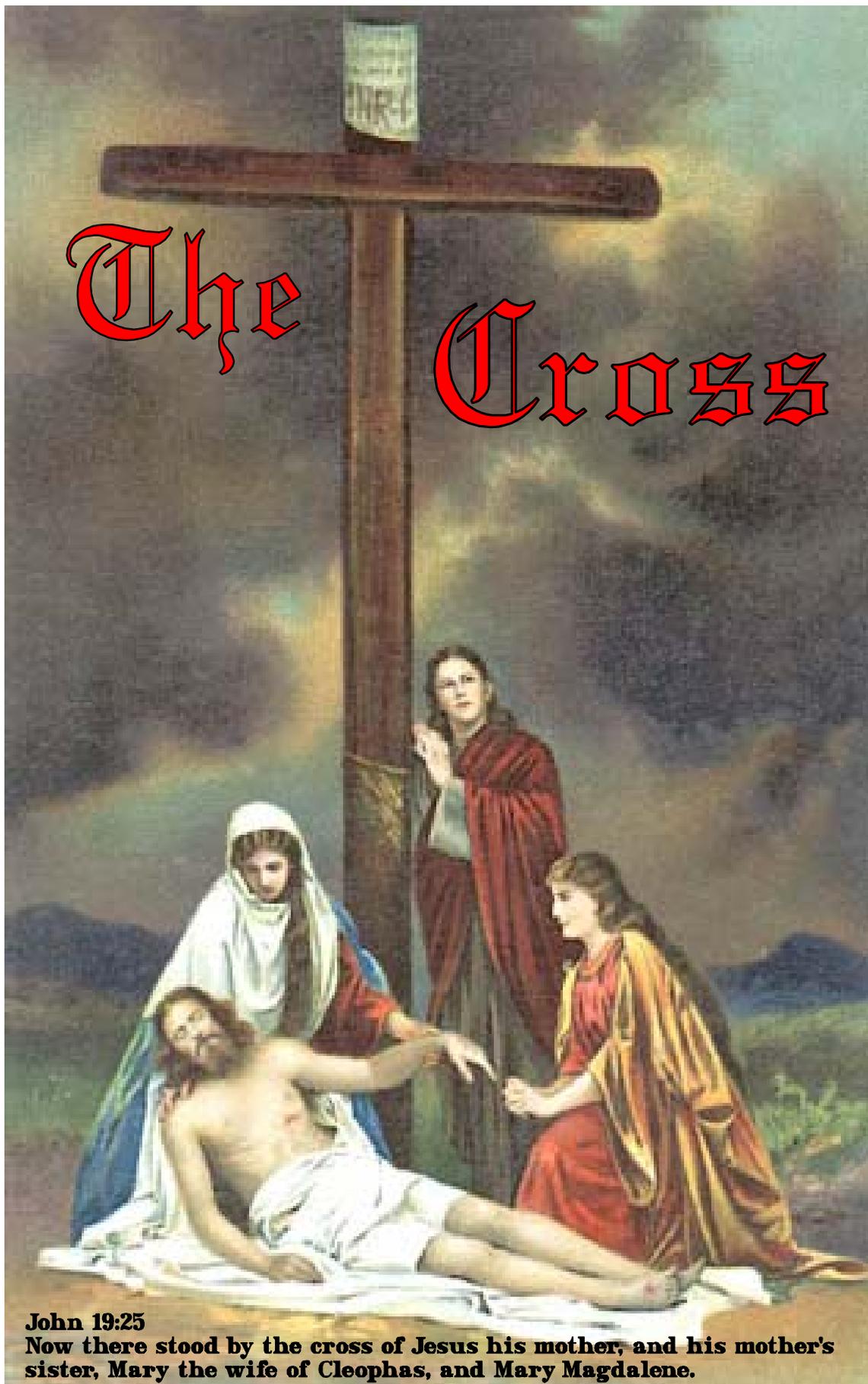


The Cross



John 19:25

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

INTRODUCTION:

The Cross itself was merely wood that was shaped in the form of a Cross. Today, Crosses are made up of all kinds of materials such as diamonds, and are often worn on people's necks. However, it isn't the shape of a Cross, nor the materials that they are made of that have any meaning. Neither does a Cross in itself have any special powers. The True meaning and the power lies in what happened to Jesus **on** The Cross!

Phil 2:8

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

While hanging on The Cross, Jesus was challenged to come down to prove that He was Truly the Son of God. He very easily could have come down, but He had to die on The Cross in order to free us from our Sins.

Matt 27:39-43 Mark 15:29-32

39 **And they that passed by reviled him**, wagging their heads,

40 **And saying**, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. **If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.**

41 Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said,

42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, **let him now come down from the cross**, and we will believe him.

Just like Jesus bore His own Cross, and Simon the Cyrenian who helped bear His Cross, we too are to bear The Cross of Jesus.

John 19:17

17 **And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull**, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

Matt 27:32 Mark 15:21 Luke 23:26

32 **And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.**

We are to take up The Cross Daily and follow Jesus.

Mark 10:21-22

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.**

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

Luke 9:23 Matt 16:24 Mark 8:34

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.**

If we do not take up The Cross of Jesus and follow Him, we are not worthy of Him and cannot be His Disciple.

Matt 10:38

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

Luke 14:27

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

We are **not** to Glory in any works of the flesh, but only in The Cross of Jesus, because The Cross has abolished all ordinances that are against us.

Gal 6:14

14 **But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

Eph 2:15-16

15 **Having abolished in his flesh the enmity** (hostility), **even the law of commandments contained in ordinances**; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

16 **And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity** (hostility) **thereby**:

Col 2:14

14 **Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us**, which was contrary to us, **and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross**;

We are not to preach the Gospel with words of wisdom, but we are to preach the (dunamis) Power of The Cross.

1 Cor 1:17-18

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.**

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.**

Those that preach The Cross, will suffer persecution because The Cross is an offense to those that do not believe.

Gal 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.**

Gal 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.**

There are some professing Christians that are really enemies of The Cross. (Titus 1:16) They are those that set their mind on earthly things.

Phil 3:18-19

18 **(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:**

19 **Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)**

CONCLUSION:

Jesus endured The Cross, even though He despised the shame. He did so because of the **joy** He felt in knowing that He has once and for all paid the price for the forgiveness of Sins to those that believe. Therefore, let us not be weary in well doing, but know that

Jesus is set down at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us (Romans 8:34), and will one day present us Holy and Blameless to God the Father.

Heb 12:2-3

2 **Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

3 **For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.**

Col 1:14

14 **In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:**

Col 1:20

20 **And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.**

Col 1:22

22 **In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:**

Amen!
Timothy II