

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

The "Crux" of Christianity

Galatians 6:14-16

The "crux" of an issue is *defined* as: a vital, basic, decisive, or pivotal point. *Origin*: stake, scaffold, or cross used in executions, torment *Synonyms*: essence, heart, core, gist. In our day it seems odd that a word for "cross" would have been chosen to refer to the most vital part of an issue. To a Christian, the choice is most appropriate. Consider a sampling of verses containing the word "cross" and dealing with the crucifixion.

Matthew 10:38

"And he who does not take his **cross** and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his **cross** and follow Me.

Mark 8:34

And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his **cross** and follow Me.

Luke 9:23

And He was saying to them all, " If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his **cross** daily and follow Me.

Luke 14:27

"Whoever does not carry his own **cross** and come after Me cannot be My disciple

I Corinthians 1:18

For the word of the **cross** is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Galatians 5:11

But I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still persecuted? Then the stumbling block of the **cross** has been abolished.

Galatians 6:14

But may it never be that I would boast, except in the **cross** of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been **crucified** to me, and I to the world.

Ephesians 2:16

and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the **cross**, by it having put to death the enmity.

Philippians 2:8

Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a **cross**.

Colossians 1:20

and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His **cross**; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Colossians 2:14

having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and

He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the **cross**.

Hebrews 12:2

fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the **cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

I Peter 2:24

and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the **cross**, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

Acts 2:36

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you **crucified**."

Romans 6:6

knowing this, that our old self was **crucified** with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;

I Corinthians 1:23

but we preach Christ **crucified**, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,

I Corinthians 2:2

For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him **crucified**.

Galatians 2:20

"I have been **crucified** with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Galatians 5:24

Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have **crucified** the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 6:14

But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been **crucified** to me, and I to the world.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE CROSS?

- A Straightforward Message in a Confusing World—I Corinthians 15:1-4
- A Testimony to God's Love and Mercy—Romans 5:6-10
- Our Basis for Hope and Trust—Romans 8:18-25
- The Crux of our Direction—I Peter 2:21-25
- Our Joy— I Peter 1:3-9

Indeed, the cross is the crux of life for every Christian. May Jesus, the one who gives meaning to the cross, ever keep us near its crucial place in our lives.

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