

Bearing the Cross of Jesus

In the first three books of the New Testament, we find that Simon, a Cyrenian, was compelled to bear the cross upon which Jesus was to be crucified. In John we find where Jesus bore the cross of crucifixion his own self. Is this a conflict of scripture? Since we believe that the bible is God's word of truth, and inerrant, the answer is no. There is simple explanation: Jesus bore the cross until his human flesh failed in strength, then they laid the cross upon Simon to bear after Jesus, while they continued the journey to the place of crucifixion. However, there is a mystery to be revealed.

- Mt 27:32 "And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross."
- Mr 15:21 "And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross."
- Lu 23:26 ¶ "And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus."
- Joh 19:16 ¶ "Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away. 17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: 18 Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst."

Consider this verse first: **Joh 19:17 "And he bearing his cross"** Jesus had to first bear the cross, for it was his to bear, and it prophesied that there was none, who could do what Jesus had to do when he was crucified. It was to explain to us, that Christ Jesus did all the work that God the Father laid upon him to do.

Now, consider: Simon, of whom it is said "**that he might bear it after Jesus.**" This is simply stating to us: Jesus was led ahead of Simon, who was required to bear the cross of crucifixion, when Jesus could no longer physically bear it. Simon, bearing the cross after Jesus, is a prophetic picture of the church of salvation by grace, continuing to bear the cross of Jesus, since Jesus is no longer physically present in the world. Jesus bore the great burden of eternal forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation for all of God's people. Jesus, having done his required work of eternal forgiveness of sins, and eternal salvation for God's people, set the example for the New Testament church to follow him.

The New Testament church is required to bear the cross of Jesus, after Jesus has ascended back into the eternal heaven. What do you mean? What came after the crucifixion of Jesus? The New Testament church of Salvation by Grace was revealed through the work laid upon the disciples of Christ. It is laid upon the church, the unified body of disciples of Christ, to proclaim the finished work of Jesus Christ. This is why; we meet in organized bodies as believers and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

However, each child of God is charged with bearing their own cross, as seen in:

- Mt 10:38 "And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me."
- Mt 16:24 ¶ "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."
- Lu 9:23 "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."
- Lu 14:27 "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."

Each, child of God bearing his own cross, is the picture of the born-again sinner being willing to make their public profession of their faith, that in the finished work of Jesus Christ their sins were completely remitted. It is the picture of being willing to stand up for the name of Christ, in the face of those who would castigate the blessed name of our Saviour. It is being willing to endure the onslaught of the darts of Satan, and his minions, which will be cast forth in your face. It is being willing to endure afflictions and sorrows, with peace, mercy, and grace, to demonstrate that you have Christ in you. Again, we point out; Jesus died a physical death for the remission of sins. We are to die a physical death for the commission of sins. **1Co 15:21-23; 21 "For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."** Jesus's work of regeneration, in us, is accomplished before we can become his disciples and bear our own cross.

Understand, the church could not exist, on earth, until Jesus finished the work given to him. However, the foundation stone was already present on earth in the body form of Jesus, who was, by the word of God the Father, the proclaimed Son of God. Ten separate times, in the New Testament, God declared Jesus to be "***my beloved Son.***"

The apostles of Christ, after Jesus's finished work, were laden with the responsibility to build upon the established foundation stone, the name of Jesus Christ. This shows us the prophetic picture of Simon bearing the cross after Jesus. The church still bears the burden of the cross of Christ, following the pathway established by Jesus, and proclaiming the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. Hallelujah! Amen!