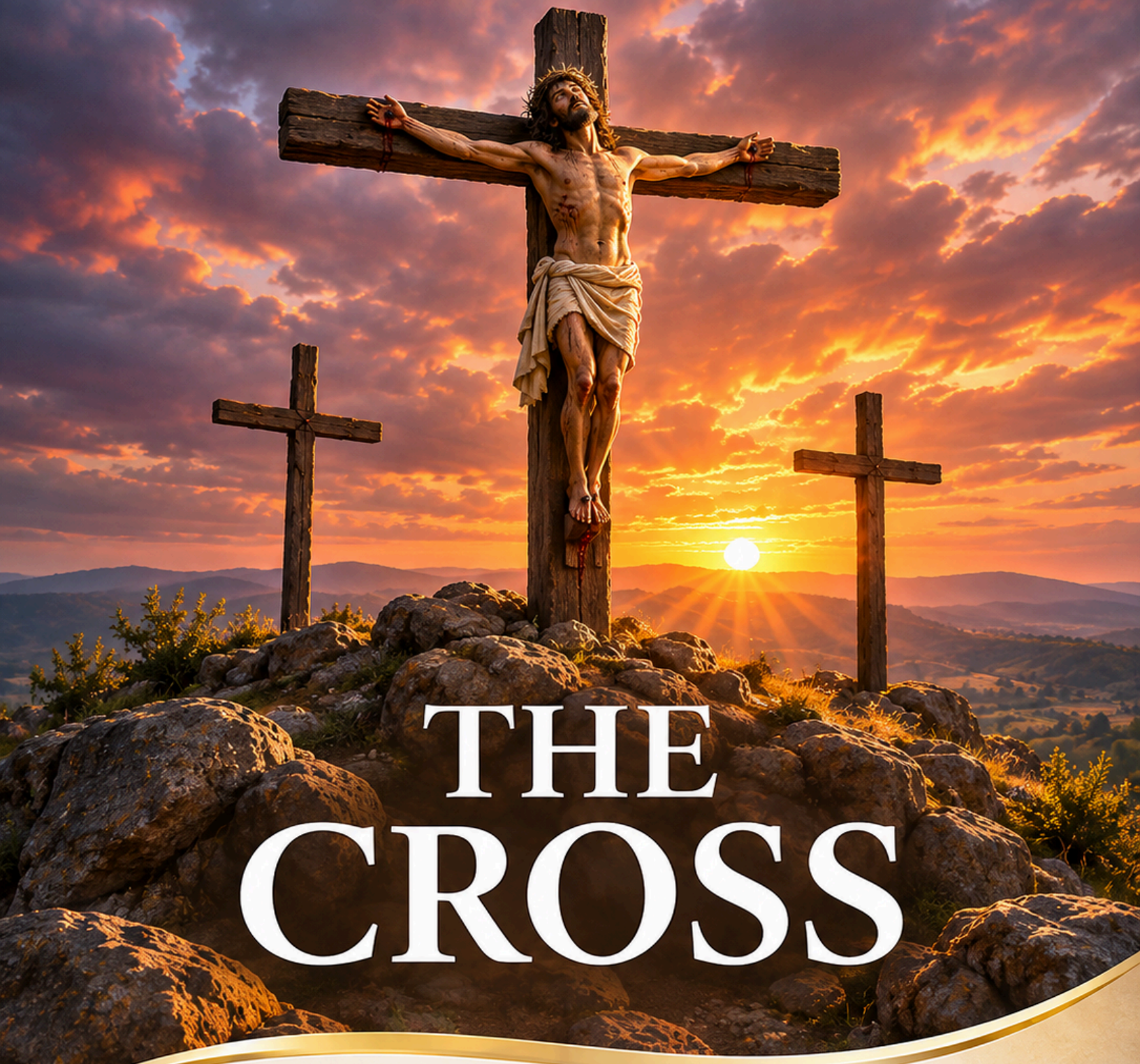
Bible Study Guide



THE CROSS

A Bible Study on Christ Crucified, Redemption, and the Power of the Gospel

Introduction

At Calvary, passers-by and rulers taunted Jesus with the demand that He save Himself. He had the power to come down, yet He remained on the cross, praying for those who crucified Him. The cross reveals two opposing ways of using power: sacrificing others to preserve ourselves, or surrendering ourselves in love to save others. Christ calls His followers to choose His way.

Fill in the blanks from the KJV text, then read the brief explanation.

Bible Study Questions

1 **What did Christ make through the blood of His cross?** (Colossians 1:20)

"And, having made _____ 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."

The cross reveals God's reconciling love and the basis of peace with God, not merely an emblem of suffering.

2 **What reconciles sinners to God?** (Romans 5:10)

"we were reconciled to God by the _____ of his Son,"

Christ's sacrifice restores sinners to fellowship with God.

3 **What did Jesus do in becoming obedient unto death?** (Philippians 2:5, 8)

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus... he _____, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

The eternal Son willingly took the way of humility and service. His glory was revealed in His self-sacrifice.

4 **What form did Jesus willingly take?** (Philippians 2:7)

"and took upon him the form of a _____,"

The incarnation displays God's self-sacrificing humility.

5 **How does genuine faith work?** (Galatians 5:6)

"but faith which worketh by _____."

The fruit of genuine faith is motivated by love rather than self-interest.

6 **What does Christ call the person who follows Him to do?** (Matthew 16:24-25)

"If any man will come after me, let him _____, and take up his cross, and follow me... whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it."

To take up the cross means surrendering self-rule to Christ, even when His will conflicts with our own desires.

7 **How often does Jesus call us to take up the cross?** (Luke 9:23)

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross _____, and follow me."

Self-denial is a daily response to Christ, not a religious symbol alone.

8 **Who lives in the believer who has been crucified with Christ?** (Galatians 2:20)

"... nevertheless I live; yet not I, but _____ liveth in me... ..."

The cross changes the center of the believer's life. Christ's indwelling life replaces self as ruler.

9 **How should believers regard their old relation to sin?** (Romans 6:11)

"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto _____, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Union with the crucified and risen Christ changes the dominion under which we live.

10 **What must not reign in our mortal bodies?** (Romans 6:12)

"Let not _____ therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof."

Grace breaks sin's mastery and calls us to submit to Christ.

11 **How did Jesus describe His kingdom to Pilate?** (John 18:36)

"My kingdom is _____: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight... but now is my kingdom not from hence."

Christ's kingdom does not depend on worldly coercion. Its witnesses defend truth in the spirit of the King.

12 **Why did the Son of man come?** (Mark 10:45)

"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to _____, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Christ's greatness is revealed in service and sacrifice.

13 **What sign did Jesus say would identify His disciples?** (John 13:35)

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have _____."

Christ's followers are recognized by sacrificial love, not by victory in arguments or claims to earthly power.

14 **What standard did Jesus set for mutual love?** (John 13:34)

"as I have loved _____, that ye also love one another."

Christ's self-sacrificing love defines the standard of discipleship.

15 **In what spirit should we speak truth?** (Ephesians 4:15)

"But speaking the truth in _____, may grow up into him in all things,"

Truth and love are not competitors; maturity in Christ requires both.

16 **What did Jesus pray for those who crucified Him?** (Luke 23:34)

"Then said Jesus, Father, _____ them; for they know not what they do."

At the very moment of suffering, Jesus sought mercy for His enemies. That is the spirit He calls His people to receive.

17 **How should we treat our enemies?** (Matthew 5:44)

"_____ your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;"

Christ's disciples seek the good of those who oppose them rather than returning injury for injury.

18 **How should we overcome evil?** (Romans 12:21)

"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with _____."

Christ's way of victory is not retaliation, but faithfulness and love.

Appeal

Which cross will you take up: the way of preserving self at others' expense, or the way of Christ's self-sacrificing love? Will you surrender your life to Him today?

Commitment

I choose to take up the cross of Christ, lay aside self-seeking and retaliation, and live in His humility and love.

_____

Signature

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