

Two Crosses Necessary To Cross Over

(Matthew 16:24-26)

- Introduction:
1. Would it be surprising if I were to say that the cross of Christ is not enough to get you to heaven — that you need another cross?
 2. Without explanation, that might sound like heresy, but in reality it is the truth.
 3. We live in a religious atmosphere that claims that everything was accomplished once and for all at the cross.
 - a. We are saved by grace through faith has come across as we are saved by grace without having to do anything.
 4. This lesson, however is intended to impress upon you our need for works if we are ever to get to heaven.

I. The Cross Of Christ

- A. The cross of Jesus, by itself, is not enough to get anyone to heaven.
- B. If it were, everyone would be saved (Titus 2:10-11).
 1. However, some will be lost (Matthew 7:13-14).
- C. Let me hasten to say that the cross of Christ was fully sufficient for its purpose — to pave a path to heaven that mankind could choose to walk.
 1. The cross of Christ was sufficient to satisfy the debt for sin (2 Cor. 5:21).
 2. The cross of Christ was sufficient to buy all men back from sin and condemnation (Titus 2:14).
 3. The cross of Christ was sufficient to make salvation available to the whole world (Titus 2:11).
- D. While without the cross of Christ, there would be no salvation, another cross is necessary for salvation to occur.

II. Our Own Cross

- A. Needless to say, bearing our own cross, by itself, is not enough to get us to heaven.
- B. (Matthew 16:24-26).
- C. Salvation comes to us through the divine activity of the cross of Christ **and** through the human agency of bearing our own cross.
- D. Extremes beget extremes — and in our effort to make people feel secure, some have crossed over the line.
- E. Note the passages that declare our need for work.
 1. (Matthew 7:21-23).
 2. (Ephesians 2:8-10).
 3. (Philippians 2:12-13).
 4. (James 2:24).

- Conclusion:
1. The cross of Christ is a settled matter — Jesus did his part.
 2. In question remains only whether we will pick up our cross and follow Jesus.
 3. To what degree of commitment have you given to your cross bearing?