

# The Cross

*Skip Gray*

## I. Introduction.

A. Jesus Christ has given us an anchor in the presence of the Father. (Hebrews 6:19-20)

B. Text: Luke 9:23, John 19, Matthew 27.

C. The man who follows Jesus must take up his cross and follow Him daily.

D. Lordship and discipleship are optional.

## II. It means a spirit of forgiveness. (Luke 23:34; Genesis 45:28; 50:20)

A. God never promised that the Christian life would be fair.

B. The cross turns bitterness into sweetness. (Exodus 15:22-27, Acts 7)

## III. It means a spirit of acceptance. (Luke 23:43, James 2:1-5)

## IV. It means separation from loved ones. (John 19:26-27)

## V. It means loneliness. (Matthew 27:46-47, I Kings 19)

## VI. It means dryness. (John 19:28, Deuteronomy 8:1-3)

## VII. It means victory. (John 19:30; 17:4; Revelation 4:5)

## VIII. It means surrender. (Luke 23:46)

### **Application questions:**

1. Why is taking up the cross so difficult? Personally, which part of it do you find most challenging?

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2. What does it look like to surrender yourself to God? Explain.

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3. Why is taking the cross up so important in the Christian life?

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