

## CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

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Easter Sunday is the day set aside to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He rose from the dead, victorious over death, hell and the grave!

Jesus was crucified. Hung on a cross. Nailed to a tree. He bled and died. But that's not the end of the story. He also rose again on the third day and today He lives forevermore!

We all like happy endings, but before most happy endings, there is some sad living. There are some dark days. There are some lonely nights. There's pain and sorrow, rejection and hurt.

The writer of Hebrews tells us to "Look unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame."

We all want to be recipients of joy but we all aren't willing to endure the cross!

Do you want to be a disciple of Christ? Matt 16:24-25 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. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

For us to be true disciples of Jesus Christ, we have to be willing to lose our life. We must be willing to embrace the cross.

Jesus said we must deny ourselves and take up the cross. What is the purpose of a cross? Death. Crucifixion.

The story of the resurrection is a beautiful story but in order for there to have been a resurrection, there first had to be a crucifixion. Somebody had to be willing to die.

Jesus was willing. Are you? Are you willing to be crucified? If so, how will you be crucified? Will you handle your crucifixion like Jesus handled his or will you handle your crucifixion like the thieves hanging by his side handled theirs?

Three men were crucified that day but their attitudes toward the crucifixion were different. Each man reacted differently to the same circumstances.

Jesus understood that the cross had a redemptive purpose. Do you understand that? If you do, then you too will be willing to be crucified with Christ. If not, chances are that you will die bitter.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.