

The Theology of the Cross: A Study Guide

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A Study Guide to Accompany
The Theology of the Cross by Daniel M. Deutschlander

Sample

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This study guide was written to facilitate the study and discussion of Daniel M. Deuschlander's book *The Theology of the Cross*. The seven lessons in this study correspond to the first seven chapters of the book. Page references following most of the questions refer to pages in the book where the subject of the questions is presented. Some questions do not include page numbers because they are designed so that class participants can make their own applications.

Sample

The Theology of the Cross: A Study Guide

Chapter 1: What Is the Theology of the Cross

Then he [Jesus] called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” (Mark 8:34)

1. Two crosses are involved. To whom does each belong? (pages 1,2)
2. What must a Christian have before “taking up his cross”? (pages 2,3)
3. What is the alternative to cross bearing? (page 3)
4. How does the liturgy in the church service serve the cross-bearer? (pages 4-6)
5. What are the three characteristics of the Christian’s cross? (pages 2-4)
6. How do Christians deal with sorrow and suffering differently than non-Christians, and how is the joy of the Christian different from that of the non-Christian? (pages 10-13)
7. Why is *self* denial so difficult to accept? (pages 13-15)
8. Since suffering is experienced by everyone, it is not necessarily *self* denial. What must happen before pain and suffering can become *self* denial? (page 18)

9. Keeping the First Commandment requires *self* denial and cross bearing. Explain. (page 21)

10. How is *self* involved in breaking all of the other commandments? (Use any one commandment as an example.)

11. What are the significant differences between Christ's cross and ours? (pages 22,23)

12. "Repentance . . . is perhaps the hardest *self* denial of all" (page 27). What are the two great obstacles to repentance? (pages 28,29)

13. Picture yourself in the following situations and describe how *self* might react.

- The stewardship committee is asking for special donations so the budget can be met.
- You are asked to serve on a congregational committee.
- Your neighbor's car broke down 35 miles from home. It's 9:00 P.M., and he is asking you to pick him up.

14. A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour. How does this relate to *self* denial?

Examples of *self denial* (taking up one's cross)
synonyms: *humility, selflessness*

BIBLICAL Using the Bible references below, name the person and the action that was denied.

Genesis 22:2

Genesis 39:7

1 Samuel 24:3-7

Job 1:18-22

Daniel 6:10

Luke 10:33

Luke 5:27,28

Acts 7:59,60

Mark 6:17,18

Luke 21:1-4

HISTORICAL What was the nature of each person's cross?

Apostles (except Judas)

Early Christians

John Hus and Martin Luther

In what way did the apostle John and Martin Luther differ from the others?

Examples of *self-gratification* (refusing or dropping one's cross)
synonyms: *selfishness, pride, self-indulgence*

BIBLICAL Name the person and the indulgence.

2 Samuel 11:2-5

Genesis 20:11

Mark 10:17-22

Luke 10:30-32

Matthew 26:69-74

2 Timothy 4:10

HISTORICAL Why are these men well-known, and what is the indulgence of each?

Jim Bakker

Jim Swaggert

John Edwards

Eliot Spitzer

Mark Sanford

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