

Bearing His Cross

If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself,
and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. Luke 9:23

They scourged our Savior in a cruel attack, ¹
And placed a cross upon His bleeding back,
And led Him out to bear His painful load
Along the Via Dolorosa road.
He bore the cross they gave Him willingly, ²
Enduring all its shame with dignity;
And that old cross is destined to remain
The emblem of our Lord's reproach and pain.

In their perverted efforts to contrive ³
For Christ to get to Calvary alive,
They commandeered a passerby to share
The heavy cross that Jesus had to bare.
Christ led the way, one end upon His back, ⁴
While Simon bore the other in His track.
And through eternity he'll surely say,
He's glad he had that privilege that day.

It's not that Christ couldn't bear the cross alone, ⁵
But that He knew it's value for His own.
The One who holds the universe in space
Invites our fellowship with His disgrace.
Our pathway through earth's wilderness of sin ⁶
Encounters bitter waters now and then,
But Marah's tree that made the waters sweet
Is but the cross laid down at Jesus' feet.

And on that cross where Jesus bled and died ⁷
We reckon we were also crucified.
Dead to the world, which isn't any loss,
We live in Christ, and glory in His cross.
The more we sacrifice to know God's Son-- ⁸
The moral strength His resurrection won--
The fellowship of what He suffered here--
The more we breathe from heaven's atmosphere.

So when we see the cross of Christ approach, ⁹
May we, like Moses, value its reproach,
Take up our cross and follow day by day,
To share in His rejection while we may.
And if compelled to bear His cross a mile, ¹⁰
God help us do it with a cheerful smile;
And when that mile of His reproach is done,
To volunteer to go another one.

1) Matthew 22:26
2) Hebrews 12:2,3
3) Mark 15:21
4) Luke 23:26
5) Hebrews 1:3

6) Exodus 15:22-25
7) Galatians 6:14
8) Philippians 3:10
9) Hebrews 11:24-27
10) Matthew 5:4

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