

Word Study on *Stauros*, Cross

799		4717		σταυρόω	
er ol	Strong's Arndt- number Gngl.	Greek word	Kittel vol. pg.	Thayer pg. col	
85b er- 11.	4716 772	σταυρός	7:572	586a	
	<i>n.m.</i> a cross; the Roman instrument for capital punishment (a) lit., Mt 27:40; Php 2:8; (b) fig., the suffering and/or death involved in following Jesus, Mt 16:24; Lk 14:27; (c) fig., of Christ's atoning death and its significance for man's salvation, 1 Co 1:17,18				
	Mat.10:38. And he that taketh not his <i>cross</i> , 16:24. deny himself, and take up his <i>cross</i> , 27:32. him they compelled to bear his <i>cross</i> . 40. Son of God, come down from the <i>cross</i> . 42. let him now come down from the <i>cross</i> , Mar 8:34. deny himself, and take up his <i>cross</i> , 10:21. and come, take up the <i>cross</i> , 15:21. Rufus, to bear his <i>cross</i> . 30. and come down from the <i>cross</i> . 32. descend now from the <i>cross</i> , Lu. 9:23. deny himself, and take up his <i>cross</i> daily, 14:27. And whosoever doth not bear his <i>cross</i> , 23:26. and on him they laid the <i>cross</i> , Joh. 19:17. And he bearing his <i>cross</i> 19. and put (it) on the <i>cross</i> . 25. Now there stood by the <i>cross</i> of Jesus 31. the bodies should not remain upon the <i>cross</i> 1Co. 1:17. lest the <i>cross</i> of Christ should be made 18. For the preaching of the <i>cross</i> is to Gal. 5:11. then is the offence of the <i>cross</i> ceased. 6:12. persecution for the <i>cross</i> of Christ. 14. save in the <i>cross</i> of our Lord Jesus Eph. 2:16. both unto God in one body by the <i>cross</i> , Phi. 2: 8. even the death of the <i>cross</i> . 3:18. the enemies of the <i>cross</i> of Christ. Col. 1:20. peace through the blood of his <i>cross</i> , 2:14. nailing it to his <i>cross</i> ; Heb12: 2. endured the <i>cross</i> , despising the shame,				
85b of a) an					

To the left is a picture of a portion of page 799 from *The New Englishman's Greek Concordance and Lexicon*. It shows the entry for *stauros* along with the 28 places it occurs in the Stephens Greek New Testament. It also lists three usages (i.e. different meanings) of it in the New Testament. It gives the general definition (A cross, the Roman instrument of capital punishment) followed by a literal usage and two figurative usages. These correspond roughly to the three usages I mentioned on the 2/27/05 SMF *The Cross Christ Bore*.

The first of the figurative usages refers to the idiom of taking up or bearing one's cross. A more accurate understanding of this figurative usage involves a commitment, a willing acceptance of responsibility

given by another. The second figurative usage refers to the figure of speech *metalepsis*, where "cross" is put for the death of Jesus on the Cross and then that death is put for what was accomplished by it. (See E.W. Bullinger, *Figures of Speech Used in the Bible*, page 612.)

As I worked the occurrences of *stauros*, I found three usages. They were:

1. A literal stake used in Roman crucifixions.
2. A figurative usage in which "taking up the cross" or "bearing the cross" refers to voluntarily accepting and carrying out a responsibility given by one's master.
3. A *metalepsis*, where the cross stands for the death of Christ, but rather than dwelling on its negative features it accentuates the accomplishments and atoning merits of that death.

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Following are the 28 verses with a number preceding each which notes which usage is involved. (Note: some critical Greek texts omit the phrase “take up the cross” in Mark 10:21).

- 2 Mat 10:38 And he that taketh not his *cross*,
- 2 Mat 16:24 deny himself, and take up his *cross*,
- 1 Mat 27:32 him they compelled to bear his *cross*.
- 1 Mat 27:40 Son of God, come down from the *cross*.
- 1 Mat 27:42 let him now come down from the *cross*,
- 2 Mark 8:34 deny himself, and take up his *cross*,
- 2 Mark 10:21 and come, take up the *cross*,
- 1 Mark 15:21 Rufus, to bear his cross.
- 1 Mark 15:30 and come down from the *cross*.
- 1 Mark 15:32 descend now from the *cross*,
- 2 Luke 9:23 deny himself, and take up his *cross* daily,
- 2 Luke 14:27 And whosoever doth not bear his *cross*,
- 1 Luke 23:26 and on him they laid the *cross*
- 2 John 19:17 And he bearing his *cross*
- 1 John 19:19 and put (it) on the *cross*.
- 1 John 19:25 Now there stood by the *cross of Jesus*
- 1 John 19:31 the bodies should not remain upon the *cross*
- 3 1Cor. 1:17 lest the *cross* of Christ should be made
- 3 1Cor. 1:18 For the preaching of the *cross* is to
- 3 Gal. 5:11 then is the offence of the *cross* ceased.
- 3 Gal. 6:12 persecution for the *cross* of Christ.
- 3 Gal. 6:14 save in the *cross* of our Lord Jesus
- 3 Eph. 2:16 both unto God in one body by the *cross*
- 1 Phi. 2:8 even the death of the *cross*.
- 3 Phi. 3:18 the enemies of the *cross* of Christ.
- 1 or 3 Col. 1:20 peace through the blood of his *cross*
- 1 Col. 2:14 nailing it to his *cross*;
- 1 Hcb. 12:2 endured the *cross*, despising the shame