

## HE ENDURED THE CROSS

(Hebrews 12: 1-4)

Endure: To hold out or last; to hold up under pain, fatigue, stress, etc.; To stand, bear, undergo, tolerate, continue or to remain.

Cross: An upright post with a bar across it near the top, on which the Ancient Romans fastened convicted persons to die.

The cross symbolizes the very heart of the Christian faith. (After Jesus died upon it.)

The cross, for Christians is also a symbol of full commitment. (Even unto death).

The cross for the believers also symbolizes the glory of the Christian gospel.

The cross is the symbol of Jesus' love, and God's power to save.

There was "Joy" set before him and there was a cross before him as well. This joy set before him was the redemption of creation through doing the father's will.

(Psalms 40: 7-8), ***"then said I, Lo, I come in the volume of the book, it is written of: I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea thy law is within my heart."***

Because of the love that Christ had for us he endured so many things.

He endured hardships.

He endured the contradiction of sinners against himself.

He endured all manner of evil with great patience.

He endured being called names such as winebibber, blasphemer.

He endured being scorned for fellowshiping with Publicans, who were considered sinners.

He endured being accused of breaking the law on the Sabbath, because he healed someone.

He endured having to hide from his enemies on many occasions, because they sought to kill him.

He endured being persecuted and being lied on.

He endured on earth, not having a place to live or lay his head.

He endured the garden of Gethsemane.

He endured being betrayed by one of his own. (Judas)

He endured being denied by one who said I will die with you. (Peter)

Most of all, he endured the cross. He was punished on the cross. He was laughed at, had nails driven through his hands and feet and was pierced in his side.

Let us remember all that Christ went through because he loved us so much. He didn't have to do it, but he did. Thank God he endured the cross, despised all the shame and sits now at the right hand of God.