**The Cross (It Is Finished)**

Matthew 16:24 - 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.   
The message God would have you receive today is: Obedience   
  
1. Deny self.   
2. Tale up your cross.   
3. Follow him.   
  
Follow Jesus where? Jesus took his cross to Calvary. He was obedient unto death. The final sacrifice for sin was made. Jesus took his cross to Calvary but he also left it there. (it is finished) He took the sins of the world to Calvary but he left them there. (It is finished.) He took death to Calvary but he left it there. (It is finished) Jesus took his flesh to Calvary but he left it there. (It is finished.)   
Hebrews 12:2 - Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Author is the root word for authority. Jesus has authority and he said, “It is finished.”   
  
Matthew 11:28/30 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Jesus exchanges your cross for His yoke.)   
  
Jesus carried the cross once as an act of obedience. I believe we only have to carry it once. (Note: Calvary is mentioned only once in the Bible.)   
  
Jesus said you must take up your cross and follow him. Pick up your cross and carry it to Calvary. Leave it there. Become obedient unto death (self). Deny self. Take your sins to Calvary. Leave them there. Take the old man (self) to Calvary. Leave him. (It is finished)   
James 1:15 - Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. (When death to self, the old man and sin come……..it is finished.)   
  
Ephesians 4:24 - And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Romans 6:14 - For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. Romans 6:22 - But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life   
John 8:32 - And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.   
John 8:36 - If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.   
  
Have you taken up your cross and followed Jesus to Calvary? Did you leave your cross at Calvary or are you still carrying it? If you are still carrying it, then you still have the burden of self and sin. Jesus said, “It is finished”.   
Have you been set free? Not with wisdom of words but by the power of the cross.