What do you think of when you see a cross?
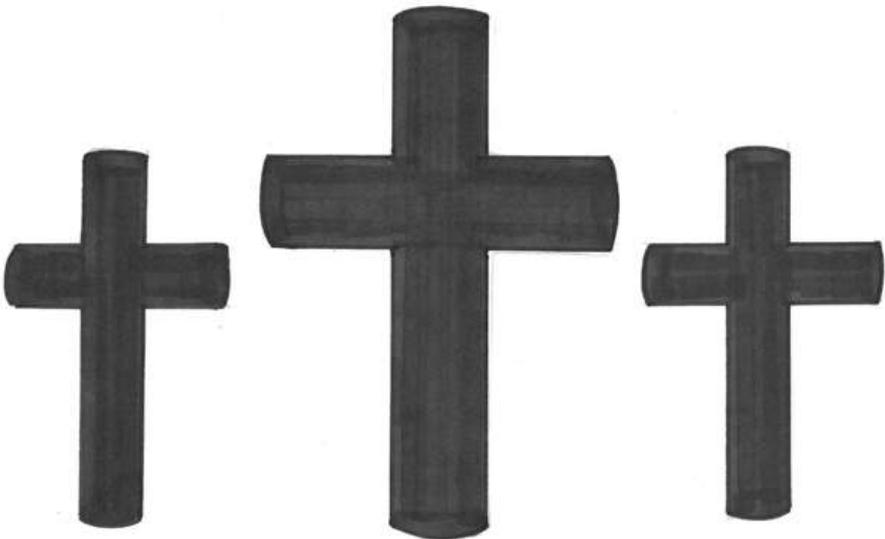
The Bible reveals that Jesus made "*peace by the blood of His cross*" *(Col.1:20)* How can Jesus make us at peace with God?
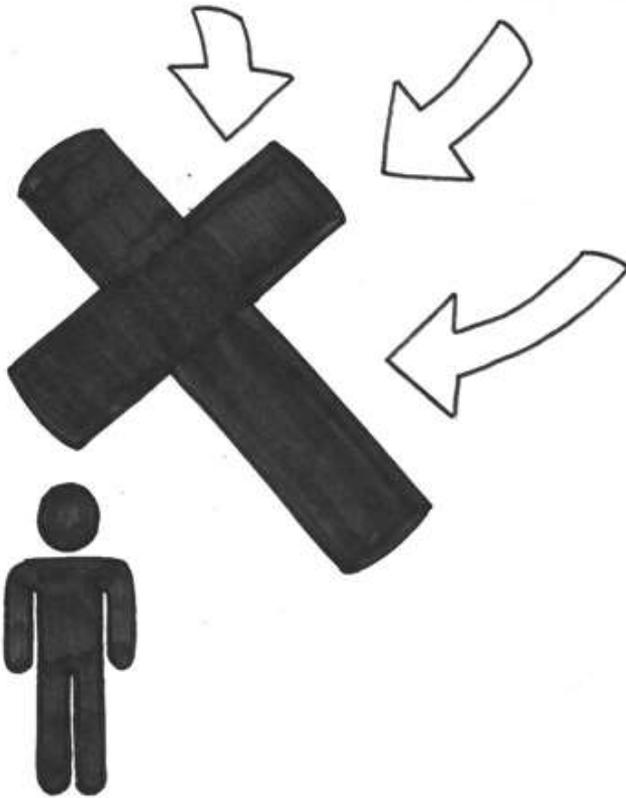
Jesus took our place!

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit."
(1 Peter 3:18)

On the cross, for those who believe, Jesus Christ, *"the righteous,"* took our place, *"the unrighteous,"* as a substitute. Jesus was *"put to death"* in our place *"that he might bring us to God."* Jesus took our place on the cross to save us!
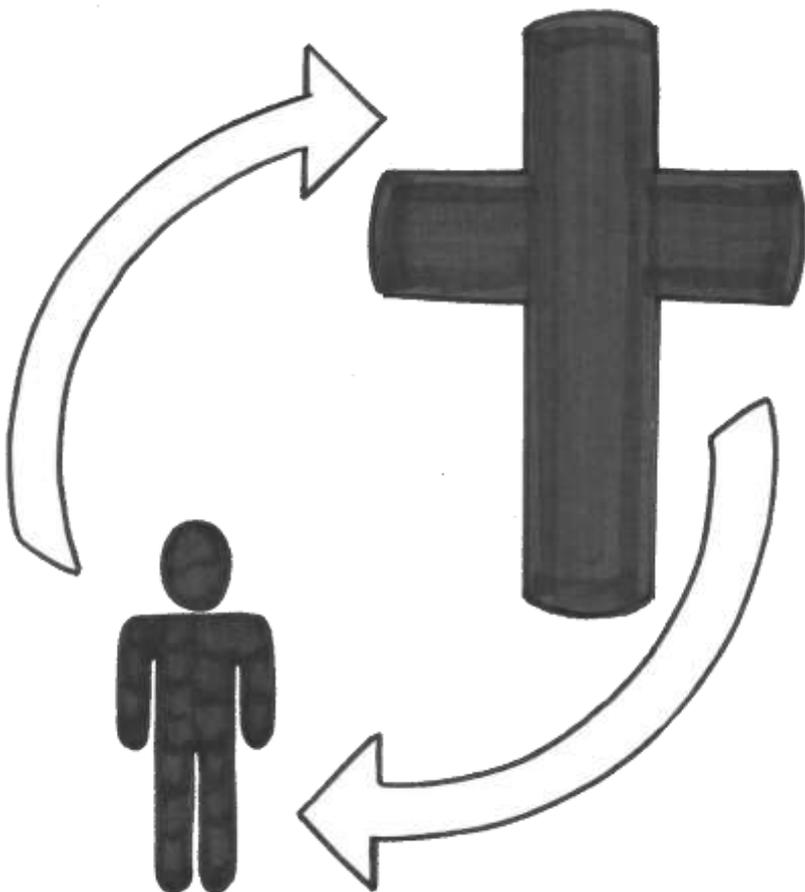
Jesus absorbed God's wrath

"but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God."
(Romans 5:8-9)

Because God is perfectly righteous and holy, He must pour out His wrath in punishment against us for our sin against Him. For those of us who believe, Jesus Christ came between us and Holy God and absorbed His wrath against us and our sin. Jesus took our punishment for us on the cross!
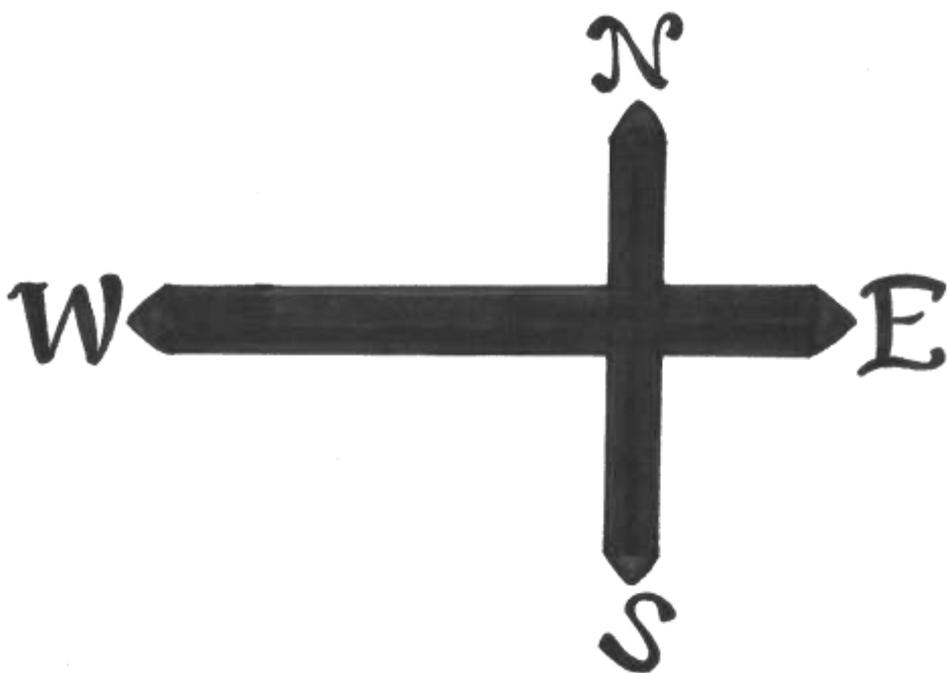
Jesus gave us His righteousness

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."
(2 Corinthians 5:21)

God placed all of the sin of those who believe in Jesus upon Jesus as He was dying on the cross…and God took the righteousness of Jesus Christ and placed it upon us…so that if we trust in the work Jesus did on the cross…God counts us just as righteous and holy as His only Son, Jesus!

Jesus separates us from our sin

"…as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us."
(Psalm 103:12)

"…for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."
(Matthew 26:28)

When a person trusts in the forgiveness Jesus provides for him on the cross, Jesus completely removes his sin from him! His sin is completely forgiven through Jesus' death on the cross!

Illustration: The *Scapegoat* on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16)

Heaven awaits those who trust Christ

"Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world." (John 17:24)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

All who trust in the work of Christ on the cross will share in Christ's glory and enjoy everlasting life in His presence!
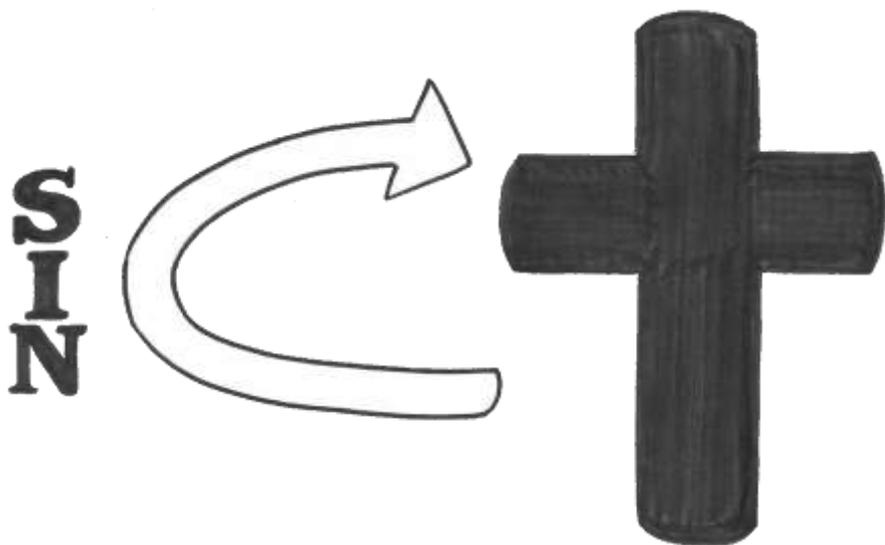
Your response to the cross of Jesus

"And he said to them all, 'If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.'"
(Luke 9:23)

The call of the cross of Jesus Christ is a call to follow Jesus Christ!

Repent: Turn away from your sin!

"…testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ."
(Acts 20:21)

"Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out."
(Acts 3:19)

- Do you believe that Jesus died on a cross and took your place?

- Do you believe that Jesus took God's wrath that was intended for you?

- Do you believe that Jesus can make you completely right in God's sight?

- Do you believe that Jesus can separate you from your sin completely?

- Are you willing to deny yourself and follow Jesus Christ as Lord?

- Are you willing to repent…to turn from all known sin in your life?

- Will you cry out to Jesus right now and ask Him to save you? (Rom.10:13)