

# THE CROSS: Where Life Begins!

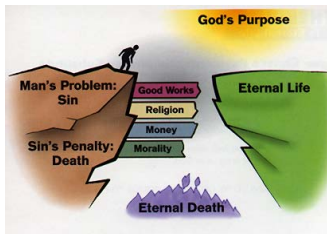
Lesson Three • 2Corinthians 5:18-21

## What The Cross Meant to Jesus

### The Sinfulness of Man and The Holiness of God

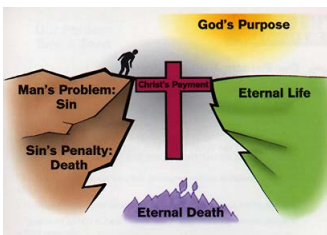
**Question:** How can sinful people be RECONCILED to a holy God?

*Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. Colossians 1:21 NIV*



**Answer:** It's made possible by "THE GREAT EXCHANGE" on the Cross!

*God made Him [Jesus Christ] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. 2Corinthians 5:21 NIV*



### What Did the Cross Mean to Jesus?

## I. The Perfect SACRIFICE: Jesus Had No Sin!

*"God made Him [Jesus Christ] who had no sin..."*

## 2. The Perfect SUBSTITUTE: Jesus Became Sin for Us!

*"...to be sin for us..."*

➤ Jesus took our PENALTY on the Cross.

*Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree... 1Peter 2:22  
All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6*

➤ Jesus took our PLACE on the Cross.

*Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"). Galatians 3:13  
For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit. 1Peter 3:18*

## 3. The Perfect SAVIOR: Jesus Paid the Price So We Might Become the Righteousness of God!

*"...so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."*

### The Great Exchange: How to Make It Personal!

You must TRUST Jesus Christ as your Savior to "exchange" your sinfulness for Christ's righteousness, and therefore be reconciled to God!