

CROSS #1

The heart of the gospel message is summed in the cross of Christ. In 1 Peter 2:24 we read, “and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.”

It was on the cross that Jesus paid the debt for the sins of mankind, but as Peter writes he brings the sacrifice of Christ to a personal level by telling those who received his letter that Christ bore “our” sins. That means that even though it was the Jews that insisted on putting Christ to death and the pagan Romans who actually drove the nails into his body, it was the sin of each one of us that made His death necessary in the first place.

By Him graciously suffering on our behalf, every person has the opportunity to die to sin and live to righteousness. We can do that by becoming Christians. Once we believe in Christ and obey His commandments to enter His body we are putting the old man of sin to death and become a new creature in Christ. From that point on, because of the perfection of Christ and our obedient faith, we can live in righteousness before God. To those that had entered into this salvation made possible through the cross Peter said, “for by His wounds you were healed.”