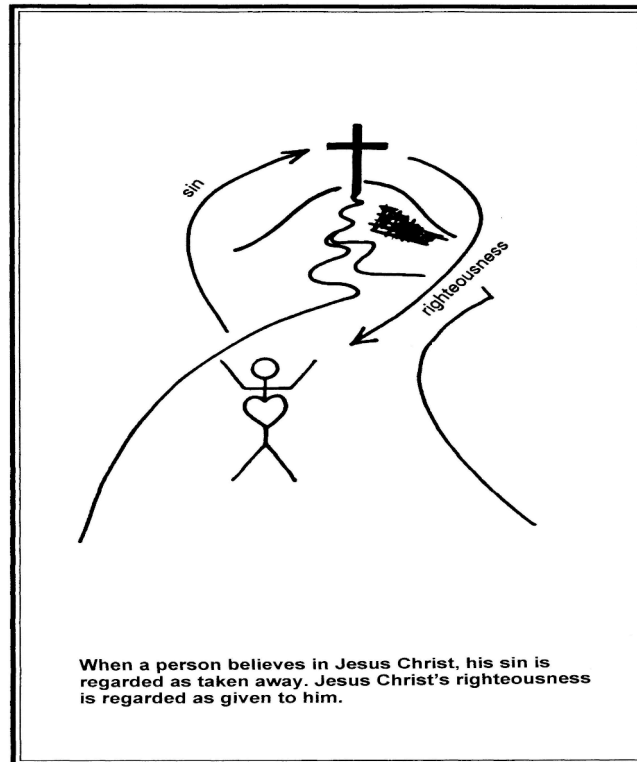


## 8. Christ's Death On The Cross



Certain people today deny that Jesus Christ died on the cross. They are actually rejecting a historical fact. Historians who lived at the time of Jesus Christ had recorded that the Romans, at the instigation of the Jews, nailed Him to a wooden cross to die. Jesus Christ was buried. On the third day, He rose from death. He was seen by more than five hundred people on different occasions before returning to heaven.

When Jesus Christ died on the cross, He was actually bearing the sins of His people. The punishment that all of them deserved from God was compressed in space and time to fall on Him. He was the perfect substitute for those who trust in Him. The wrath of God against sinners was turned away to fall on Jesus Christ instead. Something of great significance happened when He died on the cross. That was why the earth became dark for three hours.

When a person believes in Jesus Christ, his sin is regarded as taken away by Him on the cross. Jesus Christ's righteousness is regarded as given to him. This is a mysterious but real exchange. It is like inheriting some property from, say, a relative who has passed away. You have not worked to earn the property. Yet it is really yours now. When you believe in Jesus Christ, God declares you not guilty, forgives you all your sins, and accepts you as His child. O, what divine love and mercy upon an undeserving sinner! You can now enter heaven!

God wants to forgive the sinner. God must also punish him for his sins. The seeming contradiction is solved by God Himself, through the death of Jesus Christ!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~