

## WHY THE CROSS?

1 Corinthians 2:2

For I determined not to know anything  
among you except

***Jesus Christ and  
Him crucified.***

The lower section features a smaller image of a wooden cross with a red cloth draped over it, set against a blue sky. To the right of this image, the text "WHY THE CROSS?" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below this, the reference "1 Corinthians 2:2" is shown in a blue, sans-serif font. The main body of the text, "For I determined not to know anything among you except", is in a black, sans-serif font. Finally, the phrase "Jesus Christ and Him crucified." is written in a large, bold, red, italicized, sans-serif font.

I. The worst of times, the best of times.



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**Genesis 6:5, 11-12 – worst of times**

**5** Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

**11** The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. **12** So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.



I. The worst of times, the best of times.

**Matthew 24:6-8, 12 – worst of times**

**6** And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

**7** For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. **8** All these are the beginning of sorrows.

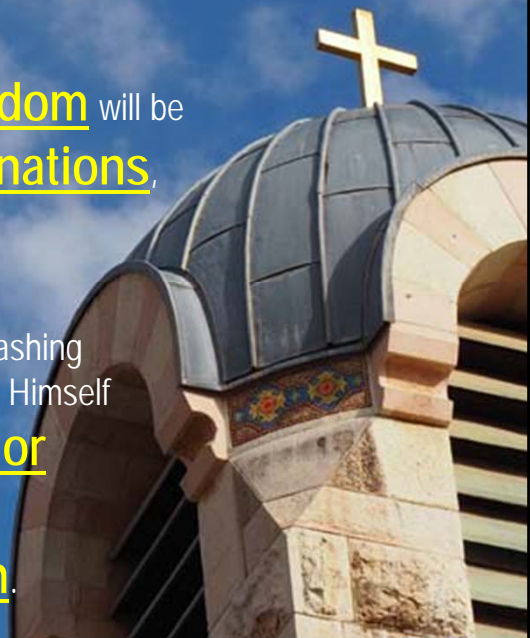
**12** And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

I. The worst of times, the best of times.

**Matthew 24:14** And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

**Ephesians 5:26-27**

**26** that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, **27** that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.



I. The worst of times, the best of times.

Isaiah 60:2-3

2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you.

3 The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

I. The worst of times, the best of times.

Romans 5:20b ... But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more ...

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace.

In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."





II. The horror of sin and the penalty paid by the death of the Lord Jesus.

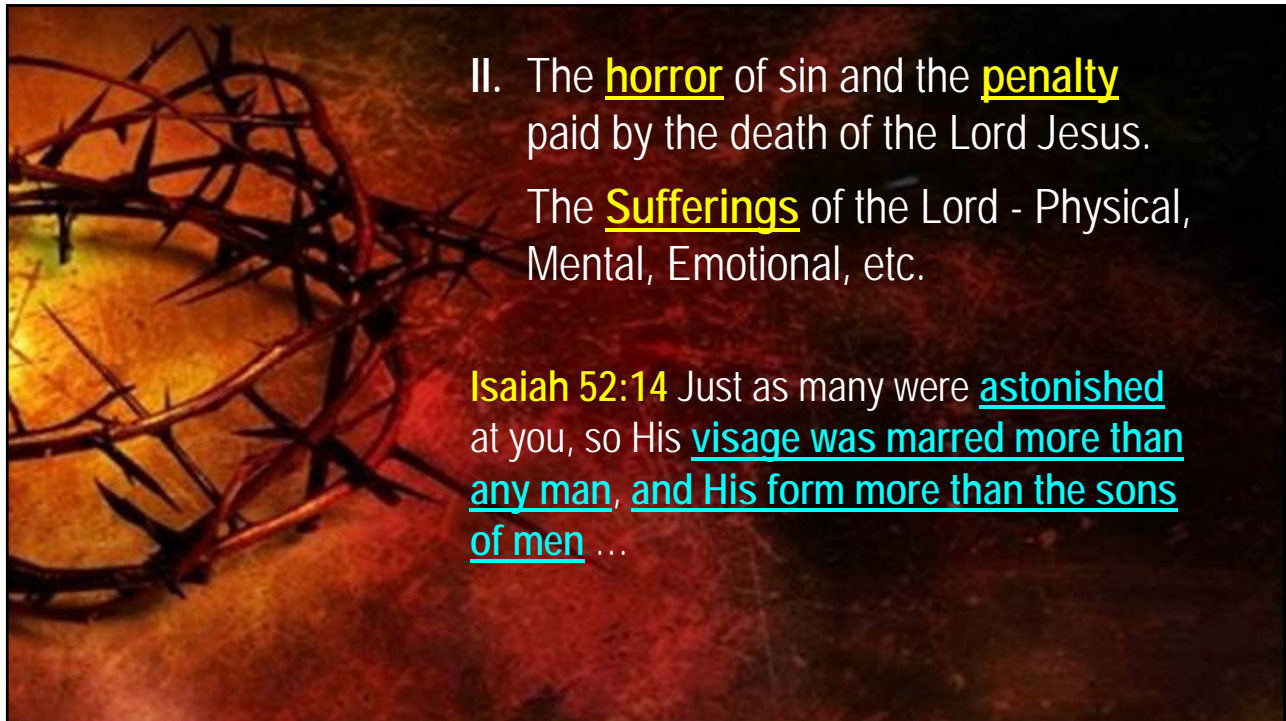


II. The horror of sin and the penalty paid by the death of the Lord Jesus.

**Romans 1:29-32 – horror of sin**

**29** being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, **30** backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, **31** undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; **32** who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.





**Isaiah 53:3-7**

**3** He was despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief ... **4** Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. **5** But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. **6** ... the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. **7** He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.

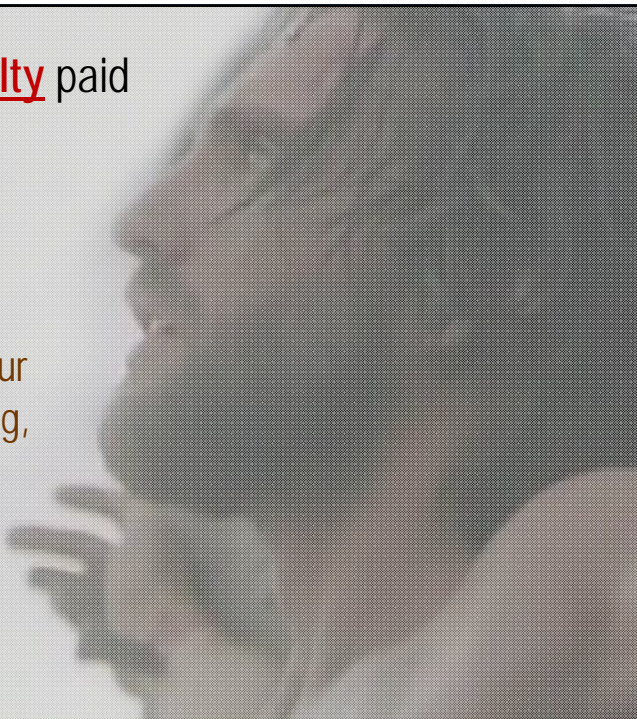


II. The horror of sin and the penalty paid by the death of the Lord Jesus.

2 utterances from the cross:

**The first**

**Matthew 27:46** And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"



II. The horror of sin and the penalty paid by the death of the Lord Jesus.

Here He tasted death which is separation from God.

**2 Thessalonians 1:9** These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power ...



2 utterances from the cross:

**The second**

**John 19:28 - "I Thirst"**

After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!"

Here is the effect of the agony of His soul in the fierce heat of God's wrath.



Here is the effect of the agony of His soul in the fierce heat of God's wrath.

**Luke 16:24** Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'

**Hebrews 2:17** Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.







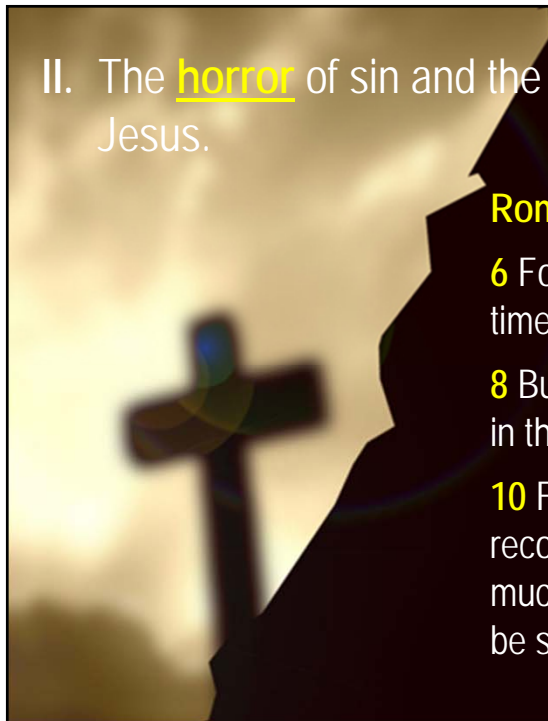
II. The horror of sin and the penalty paid by the death of the Lord Jesus.

**1 John 4:9-10**

**9** In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

**10** In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

II. The horror of sin and the penalty paid by the death of the Lord Jesus.



**Romans 5:6, 8, 10**

**6** For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

**8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**10** For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.



### III. Appropriate the Divine Exchange provided for us at the Cross.

#### 2 Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.



### III. Appropriate the Divine Exchange provided for us at the Cross.

#### 1. Relationship with God.

- A. peace with God - right standing with God
- B. sins forgiven, cleansed and covered
- C. eternal Life
- D. placed in Body of Christ - now a member of God's family
- E. name written in the Book of Life

**Do you have a personal relationship with God?**



III. Appropriate the Divine Exchange provided for us at the Cross.


2. No more fears.

Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

2 Timothy 1:7



## All Kinds of Fears



Afraid of altar call in case God wants me to give away all my earthly possessions	Fear of accidents, darkness ...		
Fear to commit life to God lest he test me by asking me to become a missionary	Fear of authority figures		
Fear of being single	Spouses not faithful when overseas	Fear of the future	Fear of rejection
Parents quarrel= mom leaving home	Fear of abandonment	Fear of not having enough savings in old age	

III. Appropriate the Divine Exchange provided for us at the Cross.

2. No more fears.

### Hebrews 2:14-15

**14** Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,  
**15** and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.



## Mother of all **FEARS** - Fear of Death

Like being trapped in a coffin and buried in the ground

Never being able to get out

Fear Cripples and Paralyzes

No one to help

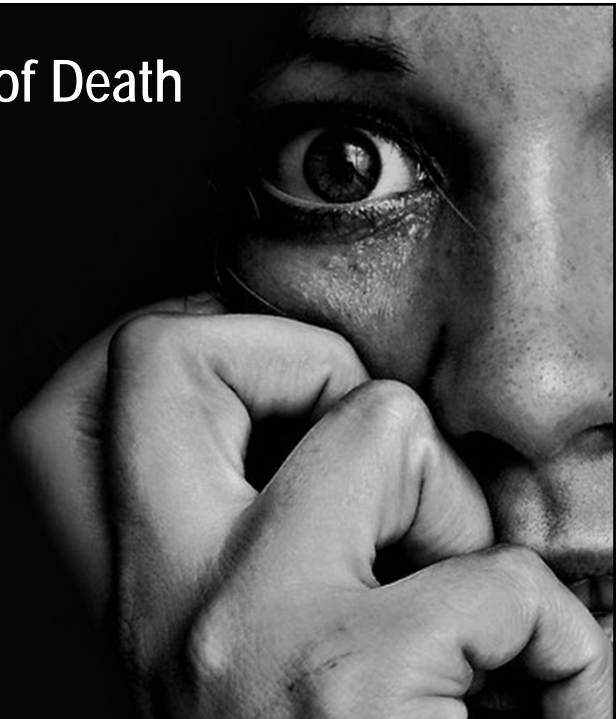
Fear of Unknown

Insects all over you

Fear of what is to come - slow death

Darkness

Death Awakes





III. Appropriate the Divine Exchange provided for us at the Cross.

2. No more fears.

**1 John 4:18** There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.



Is your life MOSTLY free from fears?

III. Appropriate the Divine Exchange provided for us at the Cross.

3. No more guilt and condemnation.

**Colossians 2:14-15**

**14** having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. **15** Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.



III. Appropriate the Divine Exchange provided for us at the Cross.

3. No more guilt and condemnation.

### Romans 8:1-2

**1** There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. **2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.



**John 8:9-11** [Woman caught in adultery]

**9** Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. **10** When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" **11** She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

**Pursue Guilt-Free, No-Condemnation relationship with God**



III. Appropriate the Divine Exchange provided for us at the Cross.

4. No more curses.

Examples of Curses:

When almost everything seems  
to go wrong most of the time

Marriage Failures across  
generations

Same sickness - disease like cancer  
crippling various members of the family

Negative behavior  
patterns

Inability to handle money

Repeated abuses

Freak accidents

III. Appropriate the Divine Exchange provided for us at the Cross.

4. No more curses.

**Galatians 3:13-14**

**13** 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"*), **14** that the blessing  
of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus,  
that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through  
faith.



**Are you free from Word-Curses?**

# Video

III. Appropriate the Divine Exchange provided for us at the Cross.

5. More abundant life: victorious and overcoming.

John 10:10b ... I have come that they may have life,  
and that they may have it more abundantly.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace  
Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole  
spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at  
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

# HOW?





A. We have access to the grace of God for every need in our lives

Romans 5:2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

B. We have the Word of God.

2 Peter 1:2-4

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.



Are you a WORD-empowered believer?

C. We have the Holy Spirit.

**Luke 11:13** If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

Are you a SPIRIT-empowered believer?



## CONCLUSION


**2 Corinthians 2:14**

Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

Are you living a Spiritually Vibrant-life with God?





A photograph of a wooden cross with a red cloth draped over it, set against a blue sky with white clouds. The cross is positioned on the left side of the image.

**CONCLUSION**

**1 Corinthians 2:2**  
For I determined not to know  
anything among you except  
**Jesus Christ and  
Him crucified.**

Is this your **EXPERIENCE?**