



NET 2 Corinthians 5:21 God made the One who did not know sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become God's righteousness in him. τὸν μὴ γνόντα ἁμαρτίαν ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν ἁμαρτίαν ἐποίησεν, ἵνα ἡμεῖς γενώμεθα δικαιοσύνη θεοῦ ἐν αὐτῷ.

Christ was crucified; and Christ was/is God. The passion of Jesus is a revelation of the nature of God. The cross is God keeping, fulfilling and establishing the covenant – our reconciliation. The fact of the crucified God must be not only the foundation but the judge of our Christianity. The forsakenness of Christ has important implications for the doctrine of the trinity.

The relation between the Word the passion of Jesus was a redemptive act. Hebrews 2:9, **We see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by God's grace he would experience death on behalf of everyone.** Hebrews 13:12 **Jesus suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood** The New Testament says so explicitly: 'He died to bring us to God' (1 Peter 3:18 **Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit - 2 Corinthians 13:4 Jesus was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God; - God.)** The Son of God does not return empty-handed from the far country. He brings with him 'a multitude which no man can number' (Rev. 7:9), born without God, deserving to remain without God, but now, through the Son's forsakenness, brought so close to God that he can meticulously wipe away every tear from their eyes (Rev. 7:17).

The Cross - The Test Of Our Lives

The key word so far as the Christian life is concerned is that spoken by Christ in Mark 8:34: **'Whoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.'** This cross cannot be identified with 'crosses' - those pains, annoyances and frustrations which come to all men regardless of whether they are Christians or not. The cross we are asked to bear as disciples is not common to us with all men. It is the result of making the same kind of choices as Christ made and thus provoking the world to treat us exactly as it treated him. Colossians 1:19- 22 **In him God in all of his fulness willed to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things to himself, making peace through the shedding of his blood on the cross in his body of flesh – all things whether on earth or in heaven. Formerly you were alienated from God, his enemies in mind and heart, doing evil. But now Christ has reconciled to himself, to bring you into his presence, holy, faultless and without condemnation.**