

REASONS FOR THE CROSS OF JESUS IN OUR BEHALF

Sin is a life destroying condition. Romans 6:23

Jesus died sinless to defeat sin, enters the life of the believing sinner, and restores all who will believe.

So, Jesus gave His life freely to restore life, because sin is a life destroying condition.

The blood of Jesus poured out is the life of Jesus given to restore humanity from the ravages of sin.

Life is in the blood. The resurrected life of Jesus resides in the believer.

This poured out life of Jesus into the believer, heals us, restores our trust in God, and brings us back into relationship with God and to God's life-giving design. The cross revealed the love of God for humanity and creation. The cross declared that a man needs to have a willingness to return to truth. The truth about God's design for life is that it is self-giving and not selfish. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. So Jesus must live in the new creation believer to produce real life living by God's design. The consequences of sin are truly death because, in sin, we fail to live by God's design.

The cross fully revealed the character of God to the Universe. The cross revealed to the holy angels that when God was attacked, He did not respond with force but rather truth, humility, and love. So, the cross exposed Satan's lies about God's character. Satan accuses God of being untrustworthy and withholding a better way for life. But God is faithful, trustworthy, and God is love. God does not withhold the best of life. The cross declared to us and to the Universe the true nature of God.

Jesus gave self-giving love at the cross. He gave His life completely. He laid down His life with no retaliation and with no self-protection.

The cross was Life given, Love revealed, and Truth made unmistakably clear. We can live without fear and trust God and His goodness. God freely forgives without punishing anyone just as He tells us to forgive 70 times 7.

The cross was not about punishment, paying a debt to God for sin, appeasing God, changing God's attitude toward us, or providing a payment for God's forgiveness toward us. On the cross, God was in Christ, making a way for our restoration through the indwelling life of resurrected Jesus, and not holding our sin against us. 2 Corinthians 5:19 We don't have to live in fear.