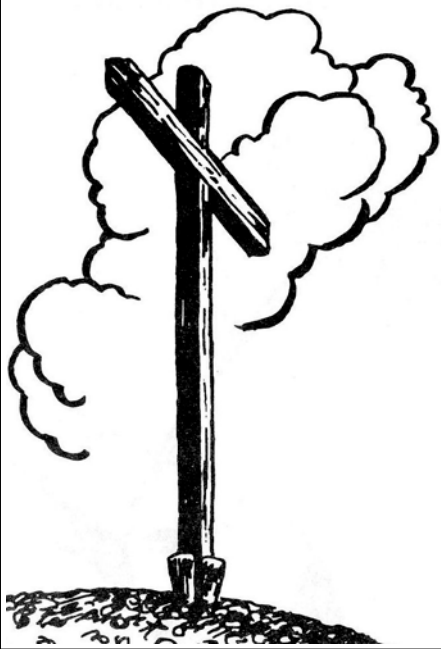


## Session 2.



# Christianity Explained

## Jesus – His Death on the Cross

### 1. The facts of the cross

Read Mark 15:21-39

### 2. The meaning of the cross

#### (a) *The darkness (15:33)*

Indicates that, in the death of Jesus, God was doing a supernatural act.

#### (b) *The cry (15:34-37)*

‘Why have You forsaken Me?’ We see that at least to some extent, God had forsaken or abandoned His Son when He was on the cross. Remember the book which we imagined was a record of every time we have lived our way instead of God’s way. Jesus, Who always lived His Father’s way, ‘bore our sins in His own body on the cross’, and our sins formed a barrier between Him and His Father. Jesus dealt with our sins and their guilt and punishment, and His resurrection showed that God was satisfied with the sin-bearing that Jesus had completed on the cross.

#### (c) *The curtain (15:38)*

The tearing of the curtain indicated that people come back into relationship with God only through Jesus’ death.

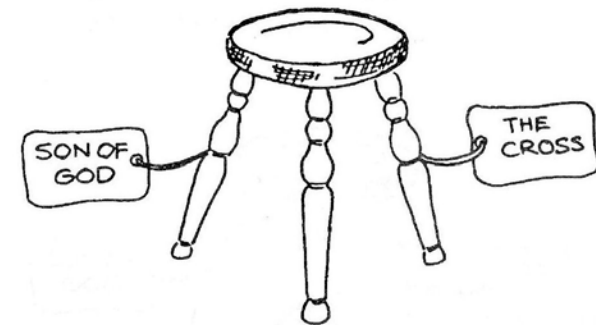
#### (d) *The ransom (10.45)*

This is the price Jesus paid to buy us back to God – that price was the giving of His life, that is, His death.

### Conclusion:

Jesus’ death is sufficient for the sins of anyone, but God’s forgiveness is not automatically given to everybody. Each of us must individually accept by faith the Jesus of the cross.

There are three basic concepts which you must believe to be a Christian. We have now seen two of these:



### At home:

Read Mark chapters 6 to 10. Note anything you do not understand, or would like to discuss. There will be a time for discussing these things at the beginning of next week’s session.