

# ***Cross Words***

## *In the Grip of Grace - 5*

The death of Jesus on the cross makes two things very clear: God must really hate sin; and God must really love sinners. The cross not only demonstrates the uncompromising manner in which God judges sin, but also the incredible extent God is willing to go to set things right.

God doesn't deal with our sins in a superficial manner. The penalty for sin wasn't swept under the rug--that would have been a great miscarriage of justice. Instead, God paid the penalty--once and for all (2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

### **LOOKING BACK:**

*Have you been in a situation recently in which you "fell short" in the performance of some duty or responsibility? Explain. What did you feel?*

### **LOOKING DEEP:**

Read Romans 3:21-26

- 1. In what way does a righteousness (right standing) from God" differ from that which is through law (vs 21)? What other Bible passages come to mind which compare the two?*
- 2. How does Jesus' death on the cross demonstrate both God's justice, and at the same time--God's desire to justify (set things right)?*
- 3. From your own experience, can you think of a similar time when you tried to love and forgive someone without either condoning their sin or compromising your standards?*
- 4. What metaphors are used in this passage to describe the significance of Jesus' death on the cross? Personally, which metaphor has the most meaning? Why?*
- 5. What does it mean to place faith in the salvation offered through Jesus' death on the cross?*

***PRAYER REQUESTS  
AND REFLECTIONS***