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|  | The Cross of Christ  Talk 2: Receive the Cross |  |
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“Look around you, Christopher, there’s so much evil, so much bad blood. Humanity stinks. I just want to go somewhere quiet, watch the sun set. You’ll go on fighting, I know you will; but I’ve had enough.” DCS David Fielding, Foyle’s War, Series 4 Episode 2, ‘Bad Blood’

**A. THE CROSS AT THE CENTRE**

*1 Corinthians 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God*

*1 Corinthians 2:2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.*

*Galatians 6:14 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

At the centre of the cross

The scandal of the cross

**B. “WHY CAN’T GOD JUST FORGIVE?”**

Historical context

*Proverbs 17:15 Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent—the LORD detests them both.*

Human context

**C. THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD**

*Romans 3:21-26 (NIV 2011)*

*21 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— 26 he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.*

**1. The righteousness of God of made known**

The problem

“The dodge”

**2. The righteousness of God made possible**

What happened

How it happened

*“whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood.”*

The result

**3. The righteousness of God made available**

**IMPLICATIONS**

**1. Sin and forgiveness**

**2. Sin and therapy**

**3. Grace and religion**

All other forms of religion…deal with the problem of guilt apart from the intervention of God and therefore they come to a cheap conclusion. In them man is spared the final humiliation of knowing that the Mediator must bear the punishment instead of him. To this yoke he need not submit. He is not stripped absolutely naked.   
 Emil Brunner

Nothing in my hand I bring

Simply to thy cross I cling

Naked come to thee for dress;

Helpless, look to thee for grace;

Foul, I to the fountain fly;

Wash me saviour or I die

Augustus Montague Toplady

**4. Love and achievement**

*Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

*Romans 8: 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?….38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**5. Jesus and you**

**Prayer**

Dear heavenly Father, I admit that I have not treated you as God, and I deserve your judgment.  Please forgive me.  Thank you that you have made it possible for me to be right with you through Jesus death on the cross, which he died instead of me.  Please help me from now on to put my trust in Jesus and to live with him as my new master.  Amen.

**Response:** write down one idea that you would like to think more about