

WHY SUCH A DRASTIC SOLUTION?

March 19, 2023 Various Texts by Bob Branch
A Cross-Shaped Rescue, part 1

Why the cross? Why the death of God's one and only Son?

BIG IDEA: Why did Jesus need to die on the cross?

"It's your sins that have cut you off from God." **Isaiah 59:2** NLT

"You had absolutely no connection... you were strangers, separated" **Eph. 2:12** TV

1 We are _____.

"What man among you, who has a hundred sheep and loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open field and go after the lost one until he finds it?... what woman who has ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, because I have found the silver coin I lost!'" **Luke 15:4, 8-9**

"We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." **Isaiah 53:6**

2 God _____ to what we wanted.

"...their thinking became worthless, and their senseless hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools... Therefore, *God delivered them over in the desires of their hearts...* They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served what has been created instead of the Creator... And because they did not think it

worthwhile to acknowledge God, *God delivered them over to a corrupt mind* so that they do what is not right." **Romans 1:21-22, 24-25, 28** CSB

3 We are _____ to what we want.

"I tell you the truth: everyone who commits sin surrenders his freedom to sin. He is a *slave to sin's power.*" **John 8:34** TV (Eph. 2:1-2; 1 Jn. 3:8; Rom. 6:6, 16-22; Gal. 4:3)

4 Sin has _____ us.

"He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." **Isaiah 53:5-6** (Ps. 32; 51)

"he personally bore our sins in his own body on the cross, so that we might be dead to sin and be alive to all that is good. It was the suffering that he bore which has healed you." **1 Peter 2:24-25** JBP

HOW TO RESPOND?

-- _____ yourself before God and be honest.

"Oh, that's what is wrong with me."

-- _____ what he has done in Jesus.

-- _____ both his diagnosis and his cure.

Receive Him.