



To the person who believes that in Jesus Christ God has provided the basis of forgiveness of sin, the Cross is a safety tree.

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree...by his wounds you have been healed"¹.

It is the place where believers find that their sin has already been paid for, and the rift between themselves and God has been healed. To them the Cross of Jesus is a symbol of eternal safety. It is proof that someone else has already died for their sins.

What is your approach to the Cross of Christ? For you is it a danger tree or a safety tree?

(1) Galatians 3:13. (2) 1 Peter 2:24.

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Danger Tree 1086

THE DANGER TREE



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The Danger Tree is a First World War memorial in the Newfoundland Memorial Park at Beaumont Hamel, France. The Danger Tree is a replica of an original tree and marks the place where the Royal Newfoundland Regiment sustained dreadful losses on the opening day of the Battle of the Somme.

After the first day of the battle, allied soldiers knew that the tree indicated the place in no-man's-land where they were within range of enemy machine gun fire; to pass beyond it meant danger. Yet that same tree, if passed in the opposite direction after a failed attack would mark the point beyond which enemy fire could not reach. The same tree meant something different depending on the direction of approach.



The Bible, in certain places, describes the Cross of Jesus as a tree. It too is a tree that means something different depending on how you approach it. For many it is a warning; a danger tree. For others it is a place of protection and healing; a safety tree.

Are you someone who views the death of Jesus from a sceptical point of view? Then to you the Cross sounds a warning:

Christ redeemed us... by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: *"Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."*¹

In what sense was Jesus cursed? He was cursed because on the cross he was bearing the punishment due from God for all the sins of humankind. It was there that God's righteous anger and unerring justice were satisfied in regard to sin. To the unbeliever the Cross sounds a warning that there is an ultimate cost to human sin, and that God will call everyone to account because of it. To the sceptic the Cross of Jesus is a danger tree.