"Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted." - Isaiah 53:4 "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we having died to sins, might live for righteousness - by whose stripes you were healed." - 1 Peter 2:24 The cross was a symbol of shame, suffering, and capital punishment. Those who were crucified were despised, mocked, and rejected by those who passed by. Crucifixion was reserved for the vilest criminals and was one of the most brutal forms of execution. Yet our Lord Jesus Christ, though completely without sin, willingly endured the cross. On that cross, He not only suffered the scorn and ridicule of men, but also bore the sins of all who would believe in Him. The wrath of God against sin was poured out upon His beloved Son, who stood in our place as our Substitute. His body was broken upon the tree so that we, who were separated from God because of our sin, might be reconciled to Him. We who were once far away have now been brought near by the precious blood of Christ. "By His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) Praise the Lord!