

Jesus didn't give up His life for our sins. He only gave up his weekend.

If the penalty for sin is eternal damnation in Hell, Jesus certainly didn't pay that penalty. He only remained in the grave over the weekend, and rose from the dead on Sunday morning. The death penalty for sin is not a permanent condition, and it has nothing at all to do with dying physically. Both Christians and non-Christians die physically, including Jesus. The so-called death penalty for sin has mostly to do with our perceived estrangement from God. Jesus died for us in the sense that He died for our benefit, in order to prove to His followers that there was life after death, which most Jews of His day did not believe. In the New Testament, the word "death" was mostly used metaphorically and referred to a condition of estrangement or isolation from God, which results from living selfish lives and forsaking God's ways. Jesus taught that God's way of living is the way of love, not the way of selfishness, hatred, animosity, and retribution. Jesus came to save us from the "Hells" of our own making whereby we reap what we sow. Jesus taught that there is life after death for all of us. Heaven is a place where the lives we lived on Earth are judged and evaluated by God in a fair and equitable manner, and where rewards are given to us in direct proportion to our deeds. For those who receive no rewards, there is forgiveness and mercy. Our God is a God of second chances. God loves all of us unconditionally, and it is His sincere desire that eventually all be fully reconciled with Him and His ways.