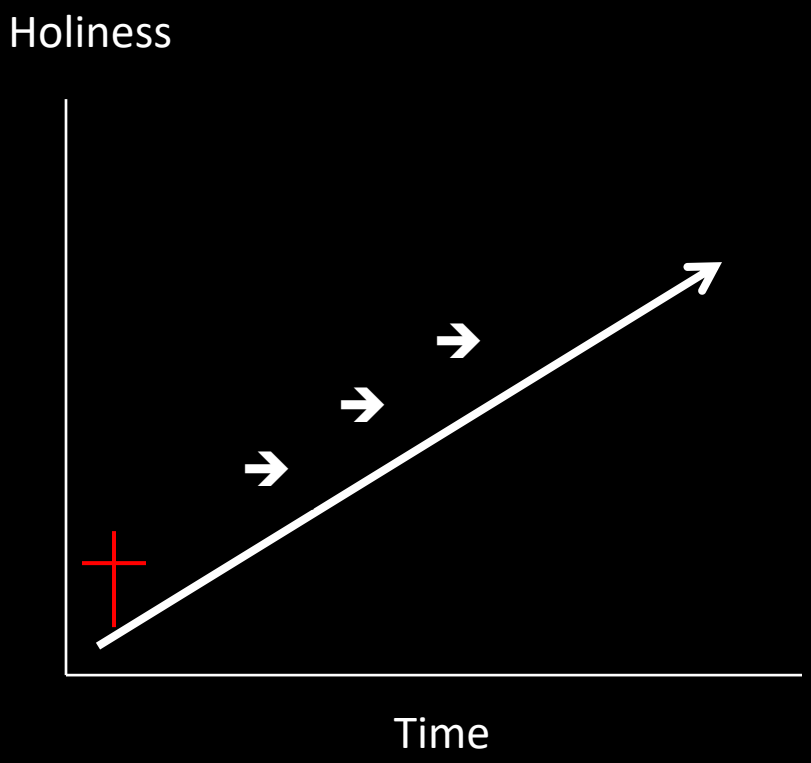
The Christian Single Line©



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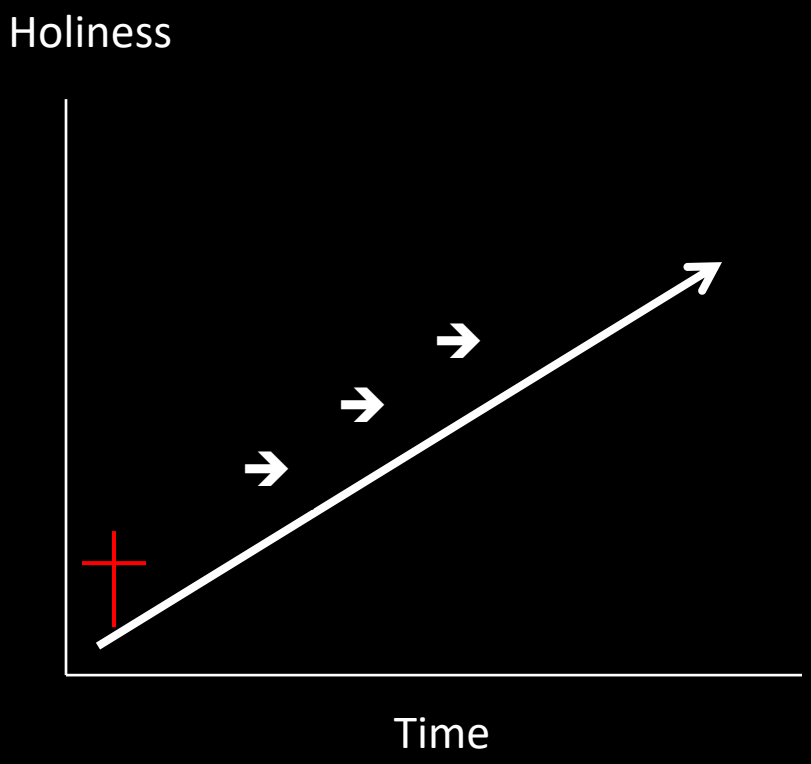

Misconceptions:

- Jesus starts me off in the Christian life, but the rest is up to me
- Justification is 100% by grace through faith, but sanctification falls squarely on my shoulders
- All of my spiritual efforts (the arrows) – including coming to church, reading the Bible, etc. – are evidence of my improving spiritual performance
- Progress is marked by Christian activities and moral improvement (the arrows)
- If I'm a 6/10 now, my goal is to be a 10/10
- Christianity is a religion of Moral Reformation – you bootstrap your way up the single line
- The engine of the Christian life is hard work and effort; my problem is that I'm not doing enough and I'm not trying hard enough
- The point of the Christian life is personal holiness (Christlikeness)

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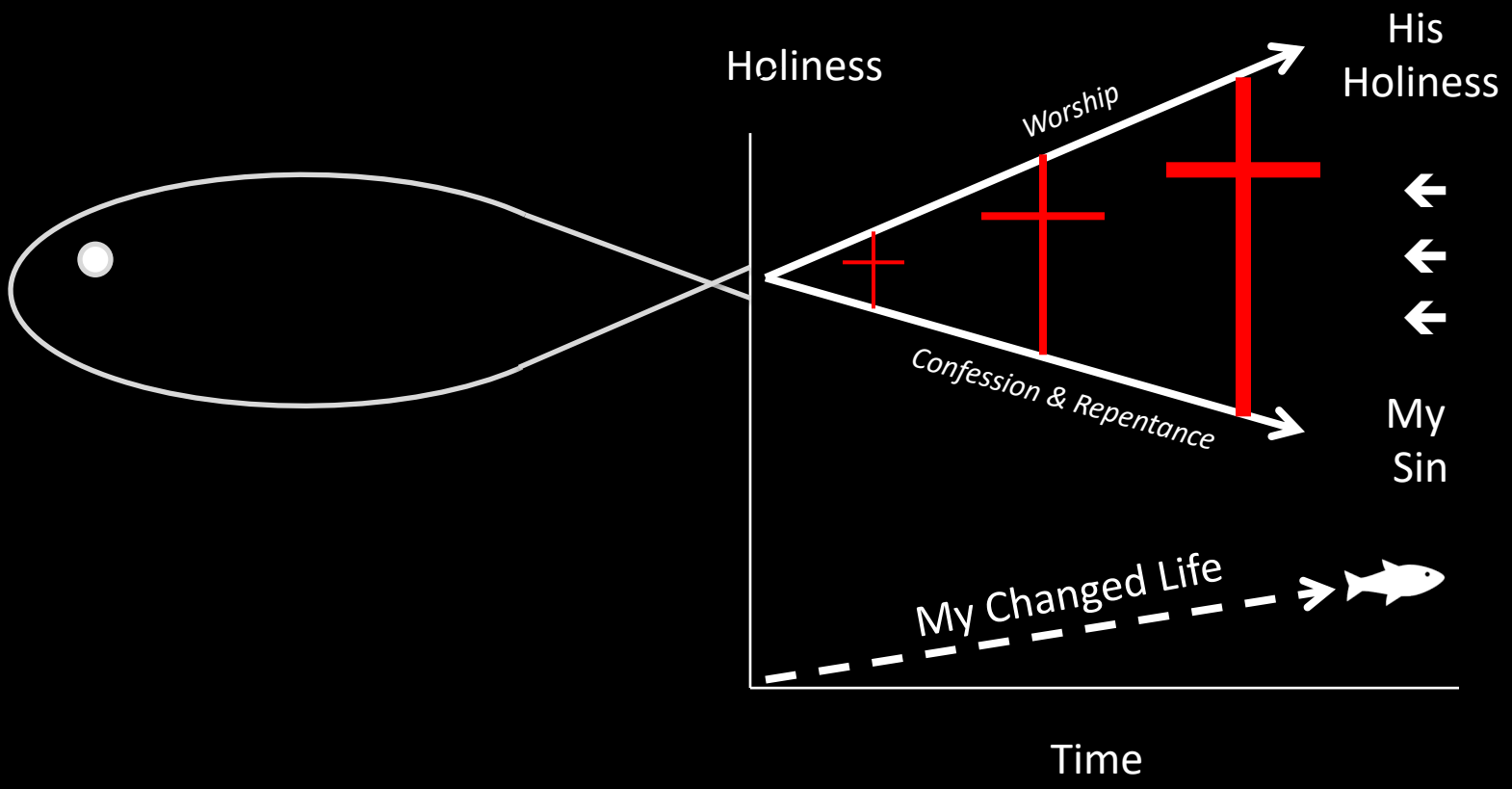
The Tail of the Fish©

What if the Gospel is what propels you through the Christian life — not just into it?



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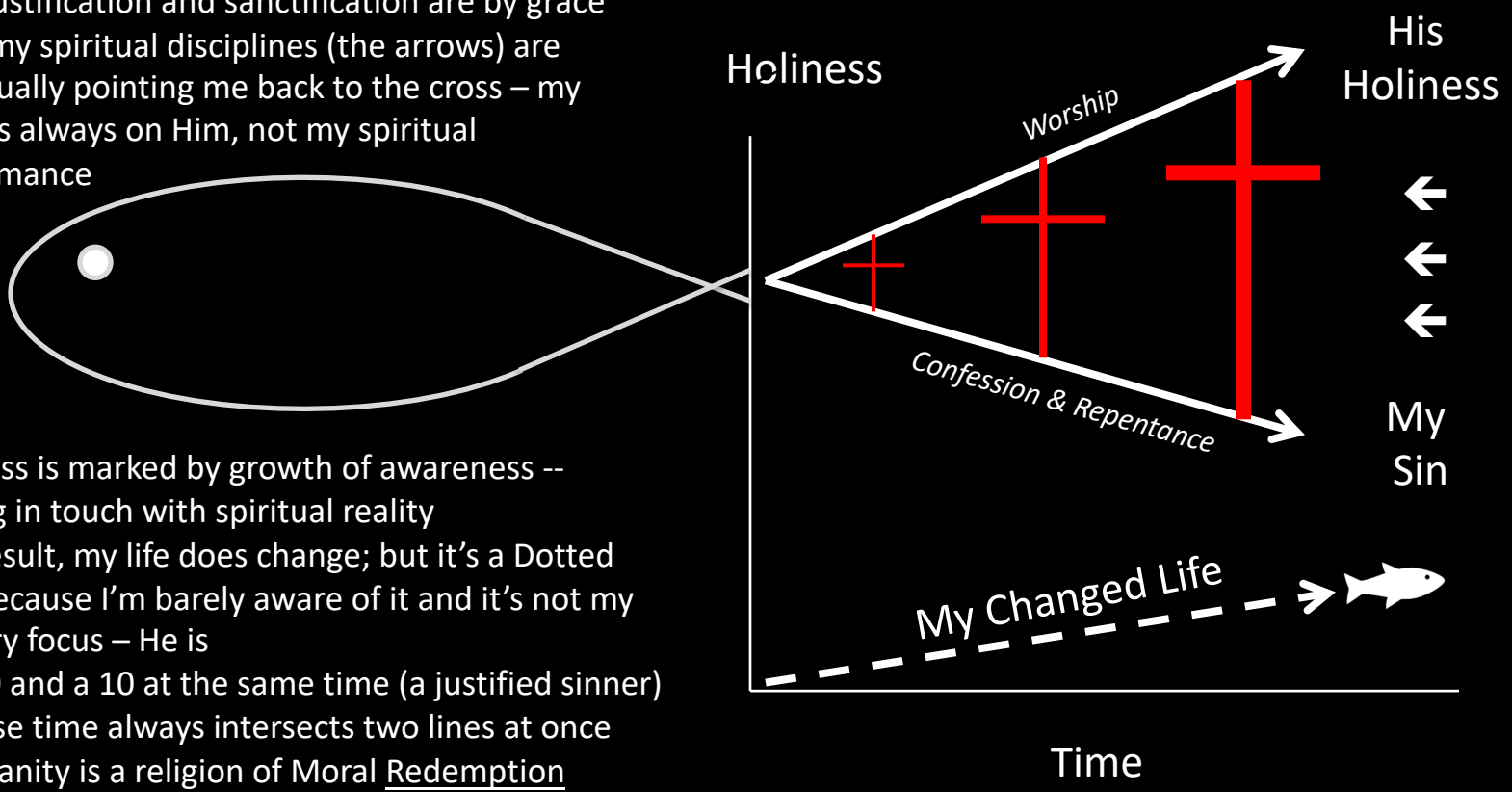
- The Christian life is all about Jesus from start to finish; you never "graduate" from the Gospel
- Both justification and sanctification are by grace
- All of my spiritual disciplines (the arrows) are continually pointing me back to the cross – my focus is always on Him, not my spiritual performance



- Progress is marked by growth of awareness -- getting in touch with spiritual reality
- As a result, my life does change; but it's a Dotted Line because I'm barely aware of it and it's not my primary focus – He is
- I'm a 0 and a 10 at the same time (a justified sinner) because time always intersects two lines at once
- Christianity is a religion of Moral Redemption
- The engine of the Christian life is gratitude; my problem is that I don't fully understand the size of the gap nor appreciate what He did to close it
- The result of the Christian life is personal holiness (Christlikeness), represented by the Dotted Line

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