

I. Introduction.

- A. God has revealed himself to mankind at many times and in various ways (see Heb. 1:1,2 and 2 Tim. 3:16).**
- B. The world's wisdom has caused many people to turn away from the revelation of God and look elsewhere for God.**
- C. The wisdom of the world has not found God (v.21).**
- D. The message of the cross may be foolishness to some, but it's the power of God at work (see 1 Cor. 1:18), saving everyone who believes (see Rom. 1:16).**

II. The Cross: A Stumbling Block to Jews.

- A. The religious leaders wanted a sign from Jesus to prove that he was the promised Savior (see Matt. 12:38 and 16:1).**
- B. Christ's miracles served as proof that he was the promised Savior, the Son of God (see John 10:25,38 and 14:11).**
- C. The religious leaders were blind to the truth and continued to question the claims of Christ.**
- D. When Christ was crucified the religious leaders were finally convinced that he could not be who he claimed to be.**
- E. They reasoned that because Jesus was crucified ("hung on a tree") he was under God's curse and couldn't possibly be the promised Savior.**
- F. They reached this conclusion because they mistakenly applied Deuteronomy 21:23 to the cross (see Deut. 21:22).**
- G. Jesus was crucified not because he was guilty of sin and under God's curse, but because he was the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world (see John 1:29).**

III. The Cross: Foolishness to Gentiles (Greeks).

- A. Most Greeks believed the message of the cross – the message of Christ crucified – was illogical.**
- B. To the Greeks the message of the cross wasn't something to believe and trust in; it was something to defy and laugh at.**

IV. Conclusion.

- A. In spite of opposition from both Jews and Greeks the gospel message has survived (v.25).**
- B. The message of the cross, the message that is weak and foolish in the eyes of the world, turns out to be the most powerful message of all.**
- C. How you respond to the message of Christ and the cross determines your eternal destiny (see 1 John 5:12).**