

## Looking at the Cross

The way Christians look at the cross of Jesus is vastly different from the way the ungodly look at it. Paul sums it all

up in these words, “It pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For the Jews request a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness” (1 Corinthians 1:21-23). This is so far removed from the way saints see the cross.

Pagans look at the cross... Every pagan god perceived as powerful—more powerful than any man. The concept of deity being killed by mortals was beyond comprehension. As the early church brought the message of the cross to the entire world, it was foolishness. They simply couldn’t “see”—can we?

Jews look at the cross... They were expecting the coming Messiah. Those who understood could see that God had promised to someday send a prophet, priest and king to live among them. With their view of the Messiah, the cross became a stumbling block. A person doesn’t have to submit to a king who is helpless or listen to an individual who claims to be a prophet. Jesus may have said, “You have heard that it was said, but I say to you...,” but who cares what Jesus said, for He is just a man claiming to be someone great. We cannot put trust in a priest like Jesus to save. What was said at the cross sums it up: “He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God” (Luke 23:35). They simply couldn’t “see”—can we?

Christians look at the cross... Read the rest of the words of Paul to the Corinthians. “We preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.**” It is truly amazing how differently a pagan, a Jew, and a Christian would hear words from the very same person and “see” differently. What is the right view? Look at the cross through the eyes of God.

Built within God’s eternal plan is a weekly communion with Jesus at His table. As you and I remember Him every week, we must make sure we truly see who He is. Remember His body and His blood. As we remember Him every week, take a good look at self—*let a man examine himself*. As we remember Him every week, see the future—proclaim His death until He comes. Can we “see?”

God has no other message for mankind. The Jews asked for a sign and the only sign given was the cross. The Greeks sought wisdom, but the only wisdom God had for them was Christ crucified. We must never forget the cross and what happened within the pages of history. A failure to look at the cross, to remember what happened for us, will result in us being “barren and unfruitful and blind” (see 2 Peter 1:8-9).

See the cross as God sees the cross! See?

**Bday/Anniv Lunch:** ...when **we** can!

**FRIDAY Bible Study:** Consider your study of God’s Word (**2 Timothy 2:15**). Make time to learn Scripture that may apply to your life today...

— THANK YOU for reading!