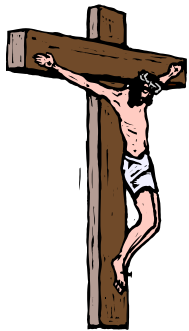




Cross Purposes 5

The proclamation of the cross

What do you think a cross means to most people in Western society today?

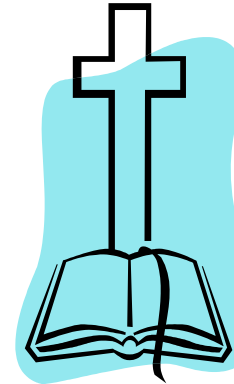


What would a cross have meant to people in the 1st century?

What might be an equivalent symbol in our own day?

Why is proclaiming the cross necessary?

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel - and use words if you have to." [Francis of Assisi]



What is crucifixion?

What made Jesus' crucifixion unique?

How do we know that? (*Rom. 10:13-14*)

What should we do? (*2Cor. 5:20; Mt. 28:18-20*)

What makes proclaiming the cross difficult?

What sort of things make us hesitant about speaking to others about the cross? How should we deal with these issues?

Responses to the proclamation of the cross:

**"We preach Christ crucified:
a stumbling-block to Jews and
foolishness to Gentiles." [1Cor.1:23]**

WHY is the cross a "*stumbling-block to Jews*"?
How should we respond?

The identity of God's people
Rom.1:16; 1Jn.2:2

The identity of the Messiah
Dt.21:22-23; Mk.8:31-32

The implications if it's true
Act.2:22-23; Act.3:13-15

WHY is the cross "*foolishness to Gentiles*"? Why is it offensive? How should we respond?

How the cross appears
1Cor.1:27-29; 2Cor.13:4

What the cross demands
Act.4:12; Jn.14:6

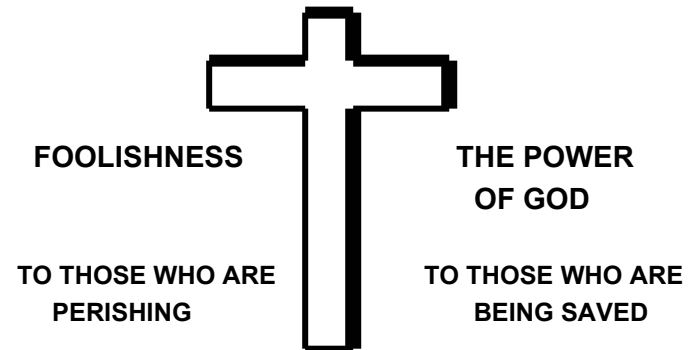
The result of proclaiming the cross:

Mt.7:13-14; Jn.10:3-5,27

What pictures are used here to describe responses to the gospel?

2Cor.2:15-16; Act.13:48; 1Cor.1:18

What is the effect of preaching the cross?



What attributes of God does the cross proclaim?

Rom.3:25-26; 1Pet.2:23-24

Rom.5:9; 1Thess.1:10

1Jn.4:10; Rom.5:8; Rom.8:32

Jn.13:31-32; Jn.17:1

How does
the cross
demonstrate
each
uniquely?