

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series on Letters to New Christians: 1st & 2nd Corinthians. Today's topic: THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS.

1) The focus of Paul's ministry in Corinth

- a. 1 Corinthians 1:17-18, 2:2
- b. How did the focus of Paul's ministry in Corinth differ from his ministry in Athens? (Acts 17:16-33)
- c. What is the message of the cross Paul mentioned in 1 Corinthians 1:17-18? Luke 23:26-47, 1 Peter 2:21-24, John 3:16, Romans 6:23, etc.
- d. Paul called this message "the gospel"(good news). Why is the message of the cross good news?

2) Foolishness to those who are perishing

- a. 1 Corinthians 1:18a Why is the message of the cross foolishness to those who are perishing? (see also 1 Corinthians 2:14)
- b. 1 Corinthians 1:22-23 Why was the thought of the Messiah being executed on a cross a stumbling block to the Jews? (Deuteronomy 21:22-23)
- c. How would you respond to someone who says, "I don't see how the death of a Jewish carpenter on a Roman cross has any relevance for my life today"?

3) The power of God for those who are being saved

- a. 1 Corinthians 1:18 How is the message of the cross the power of God for those who are being saved?
- b. Why is it important to remember that we are not trying to save ourselves but "being saved"? Ephesians 2:8-9

- c. What miracle is possible for those who accept what Jesus accomplished through his death on the cross? Colossians 1:13-14
- d. Who has helped you to grasp more fully what Jesus accomplished for you on the cross?
- e. When did you personally accept Jesus as your Savior and give thanks to Him for what He accomplished for you on the cross?
- f. How has your appreciation for the message of the cross grown since you first accepted Jesus as your personal Savior?
- g. What is your response to the exclamation of Paul recorded in Galatians 6:14?

4) The wisdom of God

- a. 1 Corinthians 1:19-31 How does the wisdom of God differ from the wisdom of this world? (see also Jeremiah 9:23-24)
- b. How was the wisdom of God fully revealed? 1 Corinthians 1:24, 30, John 14:8-9
- c. What else was revealed about God through the life of Jesus and His death on the cross?
- d. What is the most effective way to share this wisdom of God with those who view the message of the cross as foolishness?

