

John 12:32-33

32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. 33 This he said, signifying what death he should die.

I Cor. 1:17-24

17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. 18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

I Cor. 1:17-24

21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: 23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

I Cor. 1:17-24

24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

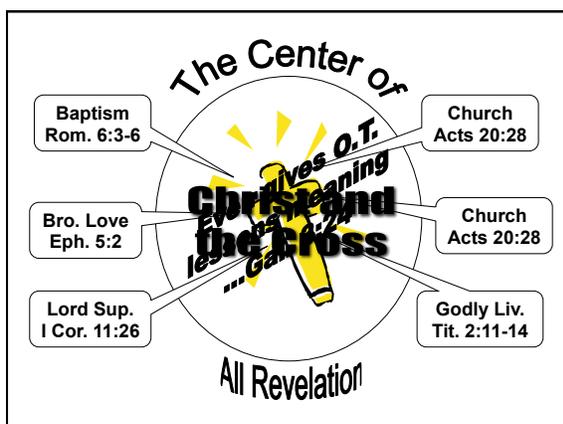
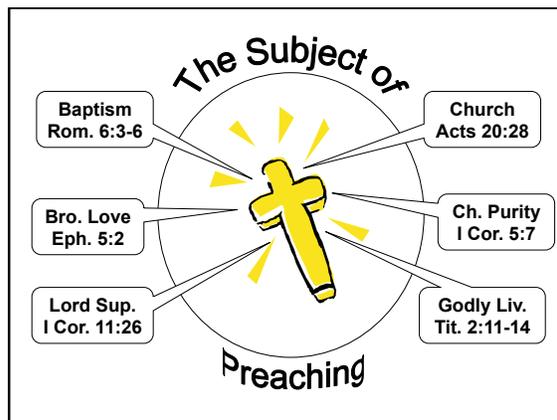
Focusing...

- Need to see centrality of the cross in our redemption
- God saves by the message of the cross
 - Considered foolish by worldly wise
 - But very power of God
- Gospel, power of God, to be preached to all Mk. 16:15; Rom. 1:16
- Must preach the cross of Christ



The Subject of Preaching I Cor. 1:23; 2:2

- Cross—the center of preaching. Cf. Acts 2
- Terms that refer to the same thing:
 - “Word of the cross”
 - “Christ crucified”
 - “Death, burial, and resurrection of Christ”
 - “Gospel of Christ”
- Any subject must look to the cross...




Preaching the Cross, How Viewed

- **Secularist** sees nothing—Jesus only a good man
- **Worldly wise**—foolishness I Cor. 1:22-23
- **Jews**—stumbling block. Deut. 21:23; Gal. 3:13
- **The saved**—power & wisdom. I Cor. 1:18, 24



What it means to Preach the Cross

- A substitutionary death. I Pet. 2:24
 - “Bore”—Bear sacrifice up on the altar
 - His body became the sacrificial victim, the cross the altar on which it was offered
- The awfulness of sin. Cf. Eph. 2:11
- Glory in a shameful thing. Heb. 12:2; I Cor. 1:31; Gal. 6:14



Effective Preaching of the Cross

- Not with wisdom of words. I Cor. 1:17; 2:4
- Declares facts of the gospel. I Cor. 15:1-4
- Declares promises. 2 Pet. 1:4; I Jn. 2:25
- Declares commands. Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38

Effective Preaching of the Cross



- Shows how receive benefits.
 - Gospel obedience. Acts 18:8; Rom. 6:3-4, etc.
 - Lord Supper, proclamation and remembrance. I Cor. 11:23-26
 - Godly living. I Cor. 15:58

Conclusion



- The story of the cross can lead sinners to salvation in Christ.
- When saved by the gospel, one can glory in no personal accomplishment—only in the Lord. I Cor. 1:31
- Safety under the seal of Christ's blood.
- Have you accepted that safety?