

"GOD, IN HIS INFINITE WISDOM"

Galatians 6:11-14

An angel appears at a faculty meeting and tells the dean that in return for his unselfish and exemplary behavior, the Lord will reward him with his choice of infinite wealth, wisdom or beauty. Without hesitating, the dean selects infinite wisdom. "Done!" says the angel, and disappears in a cloud of smoke and a bolt of lightning. Now, all heads turn toward the dean, who sits surrounded by a faint halo of light. One of his colleagues whispers, "Say something." The dean looks at them and says, "I should have taken the money." [Betsy Devine and Joel E. Cohen, *Absolute Zero Gravity*, Simon & Schuster.](#)

Wisdom.... Wisdom is said to be the God-given ability to see life with rare objectivity and to handle life with rare stability. – Charles R. Swindoll, *Living on the Ragged Edge*

We continue today with our series on *The Cross* as we have been looking at these few verses from Paul's letter to the Galatians, specifically

Galatians 6:11-14. The first Sunday we focused on the topic, *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, last Sunday the topic was *The Cross is Offensive*, and today we are looking at the wisdom of God at it relates to the cross.

Of course many people have asked the question, "Why?" Why, in heaven's name, did the Son of Almighty God die? Well, the best place to go for the answer is to the scriptures. Turn with me to **Isaiah 53:7-9** (pg. 684 in the Red Pew Bibles) and read along with me. It says, "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich. Although he had done no violence, and there was not deceit in his mouth." And turn to Psalm 22:1 (pg. 500) and you will read words that Jesus said from the cross.

For Psalm 22:1 says, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?" There are countless examples of scripture where the death of the Messiah is prophesied in the Old Testament and then you read it again and again in the New Testament. For example, turn with me to Numbers 21:6 and following (pg.139) where we find the children of Israel in the wilderness. Beginning at verse 6 it says, "The Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live."

Now turn to John 3 where the Pharisee named Nicodemus comes to Jesus by night and go down to verse 11 and following (pg. 94) and read along with me, "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as [and here is the reference to the passage from Numbers] Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." Friends, the reference is to the crucifixion and what was prophesized came to pass. So we need to point out that **the cross was not solely the action of human beings- this was a part of God's plan**. Jesus was not surprised when they came and took Him and crucified Him. He was telling his followers that this was going to happen again and again and you can read about it in scriptures.

And because God is omniscient, because God knows everything, because God knows the end from the beginning and because there is nothing outside of His knowledge, God knew that His only Son was going to be crucified.

God had had decided this before humankind was ever created and He knew this was the way in which we could be saved. God knew that humankind was going to fall even before we were created and He had decided on a plan of salvation before we ever were.

And so here we are; here we sit. Paul says in Romans 3:23, "Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Folks, life is a struggle; life is filled with trials and people who do the things we don't want to do and not doing the things we want to do. And so here we sit. People along the way have tried to get it right, why, some have even moved to the desert to flee the evil world but there is no place immune from evil and sin. We are as bad as we have ever been. More educated? Yes. More moral? No.

We know more than those who have gone before us and yet we still do not know how not to sin, and how to live a clean, pure, wholesome life.

But our scripture passage tells us that Paul boasts in the cross of Christ. Why? Because Paul came to the realization that God had a plan for our broken, hurting, sinful world. And this plan was already a plan before the world had even come into being. God, in His infinite wisdom and out of His divine love and concern for us and the world, His concern for our deliverance and redemption already knew He wanted to make it right. And sending His only Son to die on a cross was all a part of God's eternal plan and purpose of redemption and salvation. That is why Paul said in I Corinthians 1:23, "but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called...Christ is the power of God, and the wisdom of God." And there it is, my friends- the cross of Jesus Christ. And this is exactly why Paul was able to boast or glory in **the cross** because it **is the greatest example and description of the**

character of Almighty God. And this is what one sees when you truly survey the cross. For when we survey the cross you not only see the Son of the living God that is involved on that cross. You also see the Father, for God the Father is there. On that cross at Calvary is the most unbelievable display of the glory of God ever known.

But why don't some people see this? Why don't some people get it? Why are some blind? Turn with me to Hosea 4:6 (pg. 837) and we will find an answer. We read, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge." People are ignorant of God. They were back in the days of the prophet Hosea and that ignorance continues till this day. Some people are just not interested, they have no time for God, that is, until they need Him and then some come running. And still there are some who have their own ideas of God that are the furthest from the truth. And then there are those who try and philosophize about God, and they

have always been popular. But their authority is themselves, it's what they think and they too, are ignorant of God.

And so where can you go to find God? Well, you can start with creation. Paul says in Romans 1:19, "For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So they are without excuse." Just look out the window and see the hand of God at work in creation, in nature. It was the great physicist and mathematician, Sir James Jeans who said, "You see, as it were, the marks of his fingers, and you know that God is."

Another place you can find a part of God is in history. When one reads the history of the nations, when one reads the history of the Jewish people you get a glimpse of God, for God is the Lord of history and He is in the annals for all of time.

And one more place to look to find God is to Jesus, Himself. I

don't care who you are, everyone who was, is or will be born will have to deal with one solitary man, who was also God, whose name is Jesus. What do you say about Jesus of Nazareth is something everyone will have to reckon with. For Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." And friends, we will never know God as the Father Almighty except by Jesus Christ and His death on the cross at Calvary.

Friends, **survey the wondrous cross of Jesus, for when you do you will see the grace of God; you will see the righteousness of God; you will see justice of God; you will see the holiness of God; you will see the love of God; you will see the wisdom of God.**

I leave you with these words of Cardinal John Henry Newman who wrote, "O loving wisdom of our God! When all was sin and shame, A second

Adam to the fight, And to the rescue came.” Look at the cross and you will
find the eternal wisdom of Almighty God. Amen.

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Introduction: An angel appears at a faculty meeting and tells the dean that in return for his unselfish and exemplary behavior, the Lord will reward him with his choice of infinite wealth, wisdom or beauty

Wisdom...

Why? Why did the Son of Almighty God die?

Isaiah 53:7-9

Psalm 22:1

Numbers 21:6f; John 3:11f

The cross was not solely the action of human beings- this was a part of God's _____

Romans 3:23

Paul boasts in the cross of Christ, why?

The cross is the greatest example and description of the _____ of Almighty God

Why don't some people see this? Hosea 4:6

Where can you go to find God?

You can start with _____ Romans 1:19

You can find a part of God in _____

And one more place to look to find God is _____

Conclusion: survey the wondrous cross of Jesus, for when you do you will see the _____ of God; you will see the _____ of God; you will see the _____ of God; you will see the _____ of God; you will see the _____ of God; you will see the _____ of God.