

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Galatians 6:14

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

- When the apostle Paul looked at the cross, he saw direction and purpose for his life
 - Gal. 6:14 - “But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”
- He saw the foundation of his faith
 - Gal. 2:20 - “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

- He saw the focus of his preaching
 - 1Cor. 2:2 - “For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”
- He saw something incomprehensible to many
 - 1Cor. 1:23 - “But we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness”
- What do you see when you survey the cross?

Human Perspectives

- Judas saw money
 - John 12:4-6 - “Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, 5 Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? 6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.”
 - Matt. 26:14-16 - “Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you? And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. 16 So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.”

Human Perspectives

- The cross rose above Judas' vision
 - Matt. 27:3-5 - “Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, I have sinned by betraying innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? You see to it! 5 Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.”

Human Perspectives

- The Jewish authorities saw it as a means of silencing Jesus. Many believed in Jesus, and the leaders feared losing control of the masses
 - John 11:48 - “If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation.”
- Multitudes were following Jesus
 - John 12:19 - “The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!”

Human Perspectives

- Jewish leaders began plotting His death
 - John 11:47-53 - “Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. 48 If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation. 49 And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, You know nothing at all, 50 nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish. 51 Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, 52 and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad. 53 Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death.”

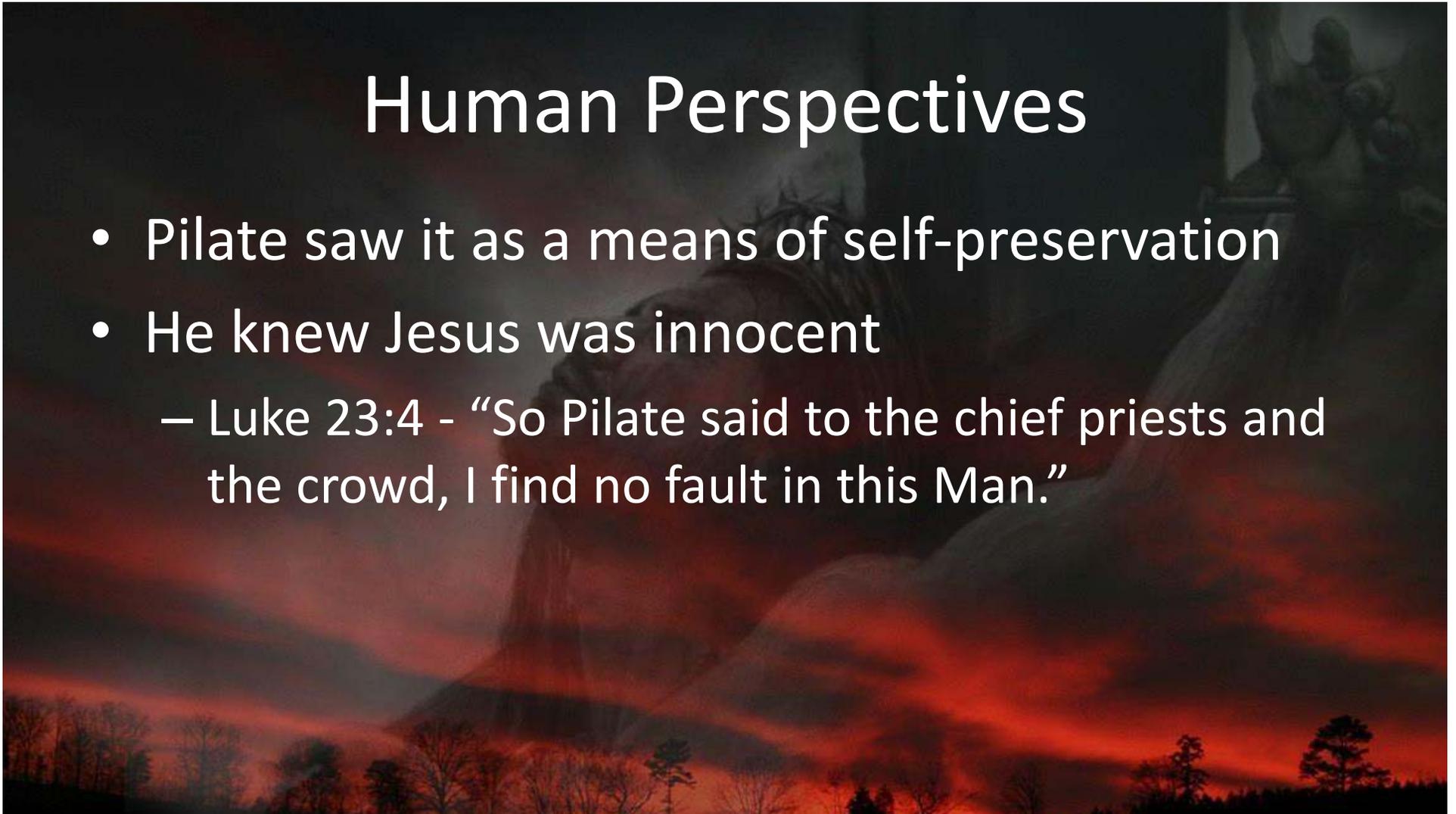
Human Perspectives

- The cross defeated their plans
 - Acts 4:15-22
 - Acts 5:17-32, 40-42



Human Perspectives

- Pilate saw it as a means of self-preservation
- He knew Jesus was innocent
 - Luke 23:4 - “So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, I find no fault in this Man.”

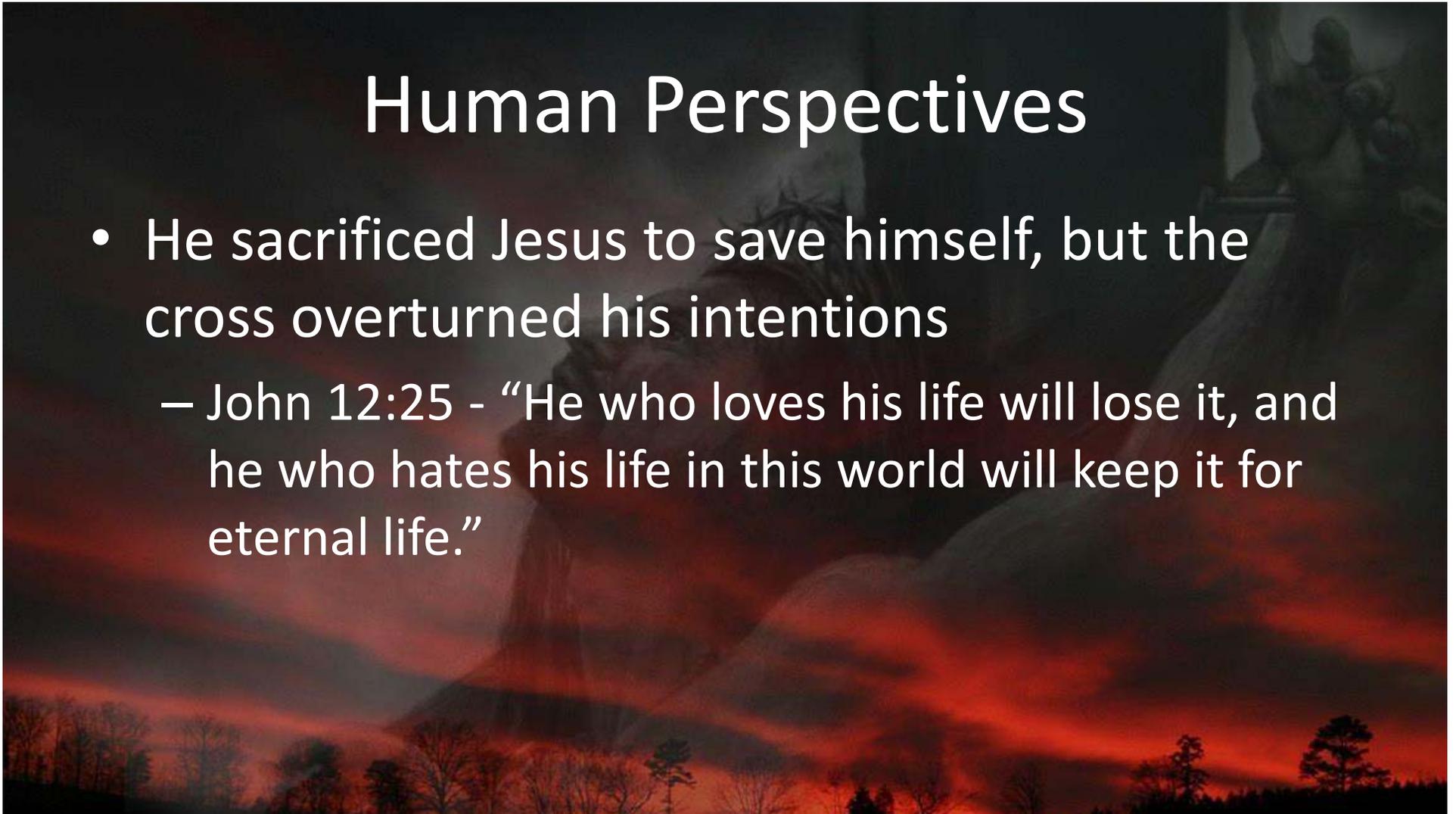


Human Perspectives

- He yielded to the pressure
 - John 19:12 - “From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar.”
 - Matt. 27:24 - “When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it.”
 - Mark 15:15 - “So Pilate, wanting to gratify the crowd, released Barabbas to them; and he delivered Jesus, after he had scourged Him, to be crucified.”

Human Perspectives

- He sacrificed Jesus to save himself, but the cross overturned his intentions
 - John 12:25 - “He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”



Human Perspectives

- The soldiers saw it as entertainment
 - Luke 23:11 - “Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate.”
 - They gambled for his clothes - John 19:23-24

Human Perspectives

- Matt. 27:27-31 - “Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. 28 And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. 29 When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! 30 Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. 31 And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.”

Human Perspectives

- The cross changed their minds
 - Matt. 27:50-54 - “And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. 51 Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, 52 and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; 53 and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many. 54 So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God!”

God's Perspective

- God saw justice satisfied
- Justified by Jesus' blood
 - Rom. 5:8-9 - “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”

God's Perspective

- Jesus paid our death penalty for us
 - Heb. 2:9 - “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.”
- He took our sins to the cross
 - Isa. 53:5, 11 - “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.”

God's Perspective

- He became our propitiation; He turned away God's wrath from us
 - “Propitiation is the act of appeasing God or making Deity well-disposed, thus incurring Divine favor or avoiding Divine retribution” (Vines)
 - 1John 4:9-10 - “In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

God's Perspective

- The Son saw it as a way to manifest submission
- He learned obedience
 - Heb. 5:7-9 - “Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, 8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him”

God's Perspective

- He submitted to the Father's will
 - Matt. 26:39, 53-54 - “He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will... 53 Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? 54 How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?”

God's Perspective

- He endured and scorned the suffering
 - Heb. 12:2 - “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
- He humbled himself
 - Phil. 2:8 - “And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”
- The Divine perspective is the one, true view of the cross

The Christian's Perspective

- Saints see salvation
 - Eph. 1:7 - “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”
 - 1Peter 1:18-19 - “Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

The Christian's Perspective

- Christians see sin destroyed
 - Rom. 6:6 - “Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.”
- Children of God see a kingdom purchased
 - Acts 20:28 - “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”

The Christian's Perspective

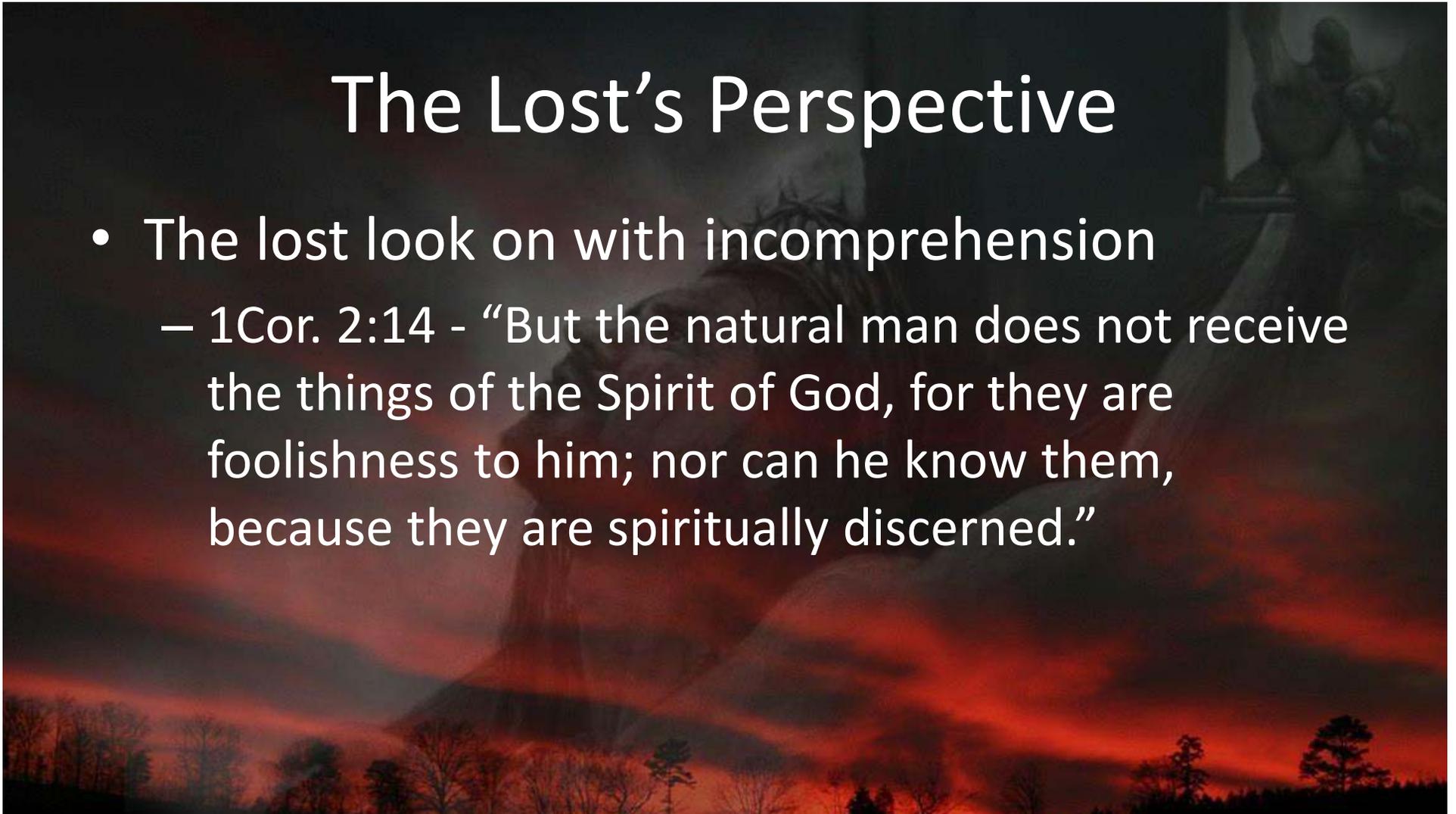
- The saved see God's power
 - 1Cor. 1:18, 23-24 - "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God... 23 But we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."

The Lost's Perspective

- They see foolishness
 - 1Cor. 1:18 - “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing...”
- Yet, we preach that message anyway
 - 1Cor. 1:23 - “...but we preach Christ crucified...”

The Lost's Perspective

- The lost look on with incomprehension
 - 1Cor. 2:14 - “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”



The Lost's Perspective

- Yet, the power of God can be seen there
 - Rom. 1:16 - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”
- It is at the heart of all we teach
 - 1Cor. 2:1-2 - “And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”



**What Do You See
At The Cross?**