

*“To the Jew first and also to the Greek” (Rom 1:16)*

[www.cvillechurch.com](http://www.cvillechurch.com)

**Introduction:** Through the scriptures we can know the wisdom of God.

A. Man on his own will never comprehend the wisdom of God. **(1 Cor 2:10-14)**

1. Worldly teachers can ably teach worldly things.
2. God’s word reveals His mind and will give us more than any man could.

**(Psa 119:99)**

B. God planned an incredible message to save man from the foundation of the world.

1. Jesus death for our sins was planned before the creation. **(1 Pt 1:20; Rev 13:8)**
2. The way of salvation was also planned before creation. **(Eph 1:4-5, 13)**
3. We need to look back at both the death of Jesus but also at the spread of the gospel and see God’s wisdom.

***I. God’s preparation for the spread of the gospel***

A. He wanted the Jewish nation to be separate from the Gentiles. **(Neh 13:23-27)**

B. He revealed through the prophets of a time where Jew and Gentile would worship and work together. **(Isa 11:6-10; Isa 49:6-7)**

C. Through the captivity and scattering of the Jews God was working a plan.

1. The Jews maintained a distinct culture through the power of the scriptures.
2. The Jews would have never anticipated that they would be an unwilling participant in the spread of the gospel.

D. The perfect time in all of human history would come in the days of the Roman empire. **(Gal 4:4)**

1. This was “the fullness of time.”
2. This kingdom was foretold long in advance.
3. There now was a unified political structure, a advanced system of roads and a bankrupt culture ready for change.

***II. The advantages and disadvantages of preaching to the Jews and Gentiles.***

A. God specifically told the Church to bring the gospel to the Jew first. **(Rom 1:16)**

1. There is no question that the apostle’s followed this principle. **(Acts 13:46)**
2. Paul had a unique role here. **(Gal 2:9; Rom 11:13; 15:15-16)**
3. Perhaps this is why God allowed the gospel to only be preached to Jews until Cornelius.

- a. Peter was allowed to convert the first Gentile.
- b. There was a great reluctance of the church to accept this.
- c. The thought of even eating with the Gentiles was difficult. **(Acts 1:1, 18)**

- B. The Jews were in every major city.
  - 1. Paul had a background that opened the doors of every synagogue. (**Phil 3:4-6; Acts 22:3; 5:34**)
  - 2. He took advantage of these open doors. (**Acts 13:5, 14-15: 14:1**)
- C. The Jews had a moral background that helped in the stability of the early churches.
  - 1. The gross immorality of the Gentiles meant that the early Christians had much to overcome. (**Acts 15:20-21; 1 Cor 5:1; 1 Thess 4:3-5**)
  - 2. What power could have kept these two groups together? (**1 Cor 1:10**)
- D. The unconverted Jews were provoked to jealousy and hardness.
  - 1. On several occasions the Jews were turned away from the gospel when they saw the enthusiastic reception of the Gentiles. (**Acts 13:42-47; 17:2-5**)
  - 2. This hardness allowed them to blaspheme and lie to accomplish their ends.
  - 3. Many Gentiles were naïve enough to follow their lies. (**Acts 14:2**)
  - 4. God would use this weakness to convert more later. (**Rom 11:13-15**)

### ***III. The men that God used to spread the gospel.***

- A. God used broken men who have been saved by God's grace. (**Rom 1:14**)
  - 1. Why was Paul a debtor? (**1 Tim 1:15-16**)
  - 2. When we see the enormity of our forgiveness then we will be debtors too.
    - a. Some forget this. (**1 Pt 1:9**)
    - b. What kind of message will this one preach?
  - 3. Please do not preach out of a desire to show your knowledge.
- B. God sent men out by two's or more.
  - 1. Jesus did this. (**Lk 10:11**)
  - 2. The Holy Spirit instructed the church at Antioch to do this. (**Acts 13:2-4**)
  - 3. This arrangement allowed for encouragement and effectiveness.

### ***IV. Are there any good men who will go today?***

- A. What would such a siege be like? (**2 Kings 6:24-25**)
  - 1. Have you ever really been hungry?
  - 2. If you could feed the starving, would you?
- B. In despair four leprous men find an empty camp! (**2 Kings 7:4-5**)
  - 1. Can you imagine a camp filled with provisions for over 200,000 men? (**2 Kings 7:8**)
  - 2. After risking your life for food, what would you now do?
- C. Even the lepers knew what any decent person would do. (**2 Kings 7:9**)
  - 1. Do we have this same decency?
  - 2. We do not have to guess, we face a greater famine and we have the provisions.

**Conclusion:** Who will take up the Lord's challenge?