

# Where do we put our Hope?

Easter 4.5.15

1 Cor 1:18

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

1 Cor 1:22-23

Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,

# Hope in Miracles

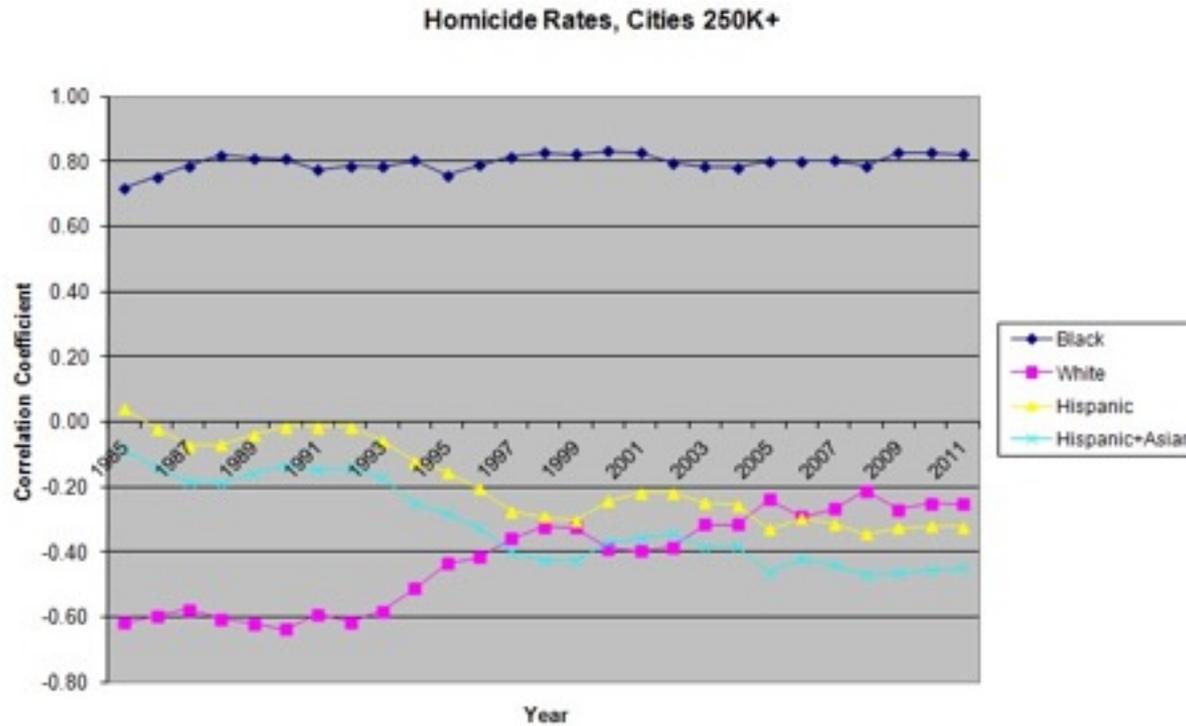
We stumble because it wasn't the kind of miracles we wanted

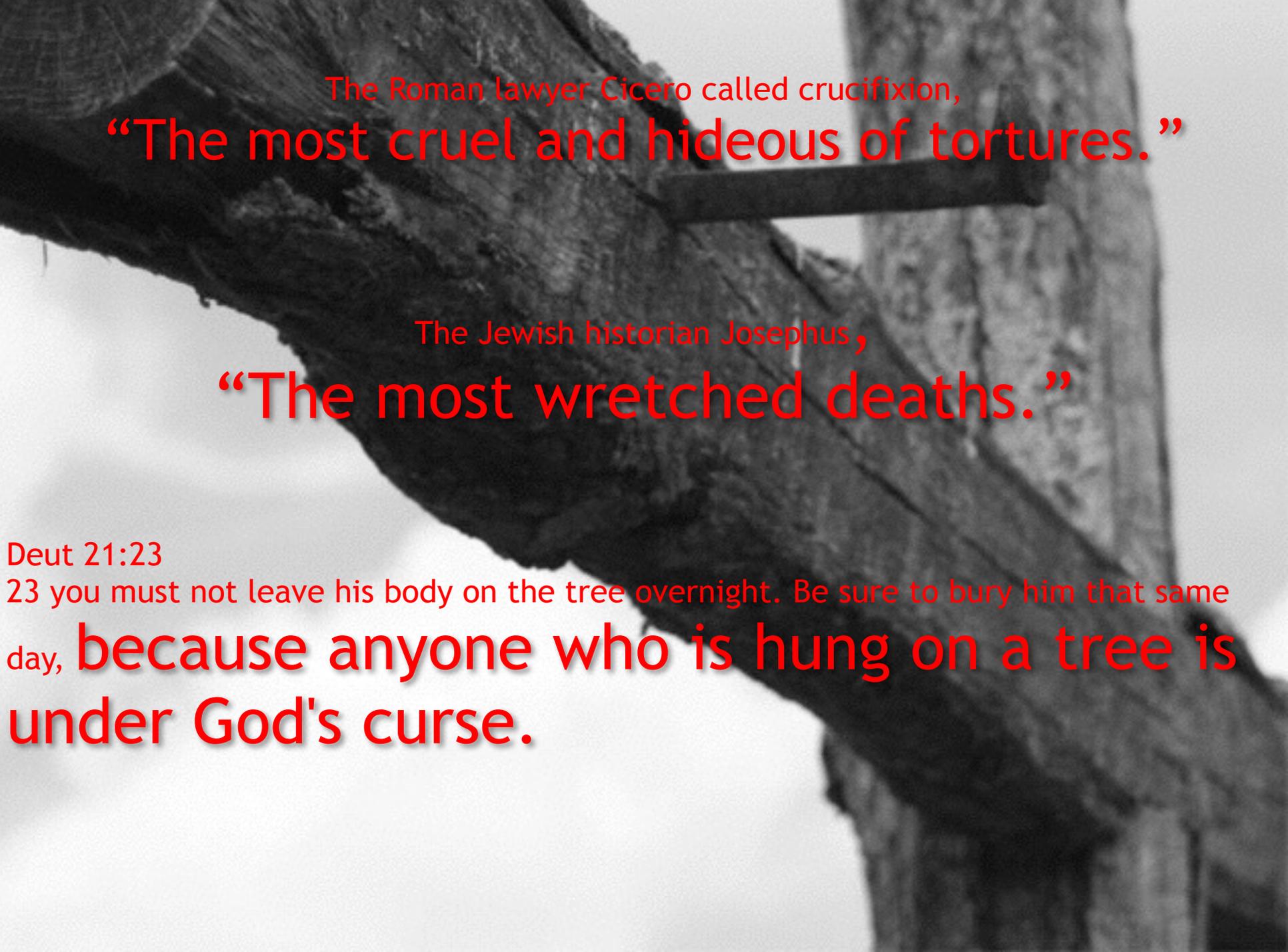
We stumble because we wanted power(Control) and success

# Hope in Wisdom/Education

## Socrates, Plato, & Aristotle

Socrates said, "The secret to a successful society is education. If we can just give everybody a good education, then it must follow that the world will get better & better."



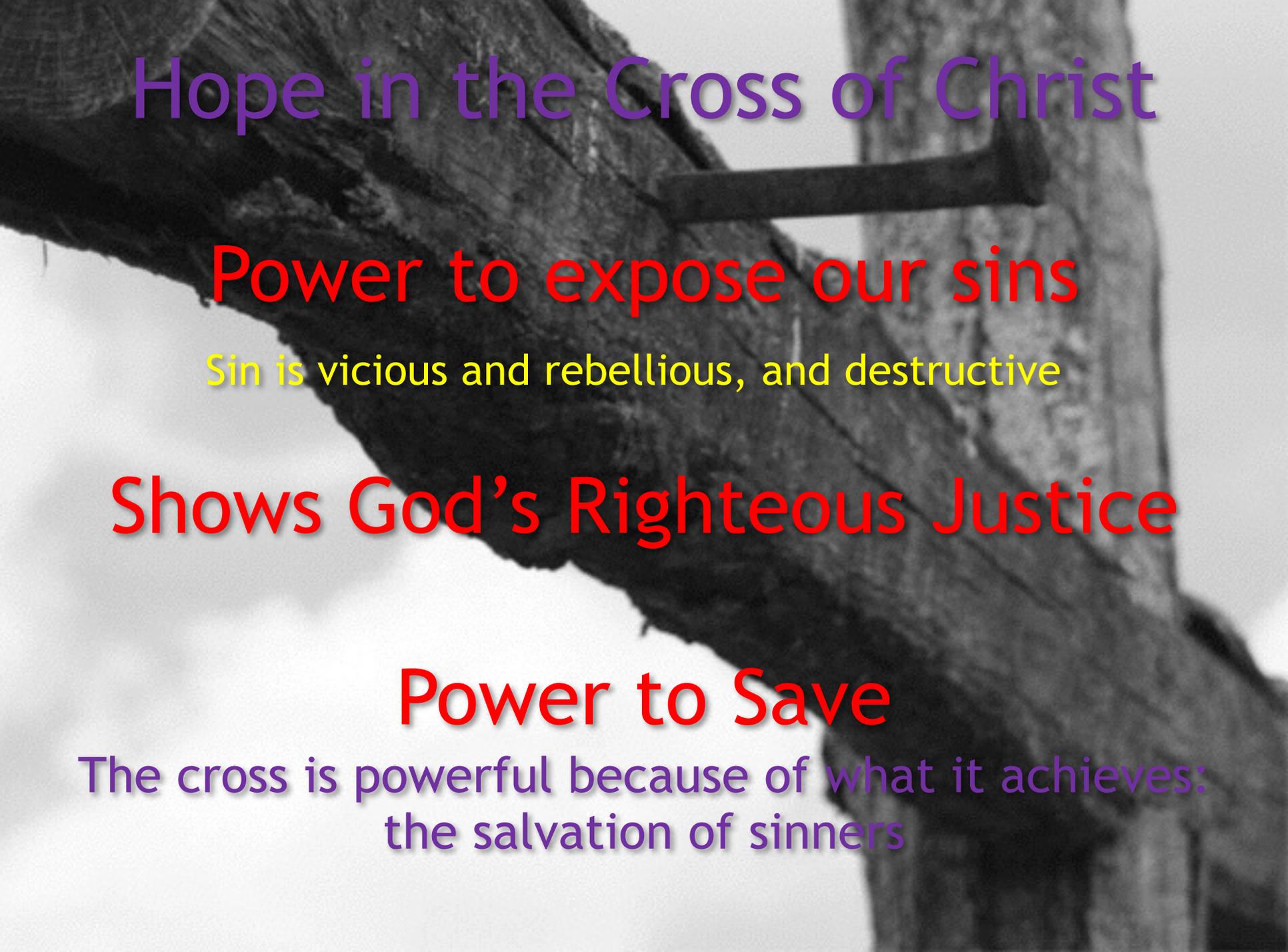


The Roman lawyer Cicero called crucifixion,  
“The most cruel and hideous of tortures.”

The Jewish historian Josephus,  
“The most wretched deaths.”

Deut 21:23

23 you must not leave his body on the tree overnight. Be sure to bury him that same day, **because anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse.**



# Hope in the Cross of Christ

**Power to expose our sins**

Sin is vicious and rebellious, and destructive

**Shows God's Righteous Justice**

**Power to Save**

The cross is powerful because of what it achieves:  
the salvation of sinners

# A Reminder Of God's Love

John 3:16-17

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Rom 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Rom 8:32-36

32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died-more than that, who was raised to life-is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

# A Constant Reminder Of God's Forgiveness

1 John 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

## Power to Renew Us

Gal 6:14-15 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation

2 Cor 5:16-17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation ; the old has gone, the new has come!

Jews wanted a miracle to the change the government,  
**God is able to change everyone in the world**

# Power to Live a Sacrificial life

Matt 16:24-26

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. 26 What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?"

1 Cor 1:22-25

22 Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

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