

Intro.

- A. Many gt. challenges – *Just imagine being one of the 11 who has been commissioned to teach the world.*
1. Population was probably between 250-300 million around A.D. 30.
 2. Transportation & communication systems were prenative; political power, prestige & wealth were not on their side.
- B. Yet, the early Christians absolutely met the challenge, with very successful results.
1. 30 yrs. after the gt. challenge/commission was given, Paul wrote....(**Col. 1:6**)
 2. Even powerful Rome had to reckon with this force.
- B. What was the secret of their success? (**Jn. 12:32; Gal. 6:14; 1 Cor. 2:2** *For I determined...*)

Discuss.**I. THE CROSS IS A CHALLENGE ... TO LOVE IN A WORLD OF HATE.**

- A. We live in a world of hate.
1. _____ murders committed every day; most involving acquaintances.
 2. We are inclined to love only those who love us (**Mt. 5:46**).
 3. If anyone ever had a right to hate, it was Christ. (**Jn. 10:32 & 15:25**)
- B. Yet, there has never been a greater display of love than the cross, **Jn. 3:16**
1. I could not put one of my girls on the cross for you; nor you would not crucify your child for me!
 2. *Love so amazing...(#742) Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at last...(#80)*

II. THE CROSS IS A CHALLENGE ... TO GIVE IN WORLD OF GETTERS.

- A.
- 1.
 - 2.
- B.
- 1.
 - 2.

III. THE CROSS IS A CHALLENGE TO HAVE CONVICTIONS IN A WORLD OF COMPROMISE.

- A.
- 1.
 - 2.
- B.
- 1.
 - 2.

IV. THE CROSS IS A CHALLENGE TO BE PURE IN A WORLD OF IMMORALITY.

- A.
- 1.
 - 2.
- B.
- 1.
 - 2.

V. THE CROSS IS A CHALLENGE TO OBEY IN A WORLD OF REBELLION.

- A.
- B.
- 1.
 - 2.

Concl. A.

B.