

**WHO ARE THE**  
ENEMIES OF  
THE CROSS

## **Philippians 3:16-19 (NKJV)**

Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. {17} Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

## Philippians 3:16-19 (NKJV)

{18} For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: {19} whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame; who set their mind on earthly things.

# Introduction

- It seems like there are enemies of the cross of Christ everywhere.
- While we expect them to be atheists, Muslims, and other religious bodies,
- Sadly there are many enemies of the cross that come from the rank and file of those claiming to be Christians.



# Definitions



- Enemies refers to those opposed or against a person or object or principle or thing. Whether by hatred, choice or even ignorance.
- The cross is mentioned several ways in scripture.

# Definitions



- STAUROS; cross from word which means "to stand" A stake for execution, an instrument for torture for punishment.
- There are several meanings found in the Bible.

A Roman cross consisting of a straight and erected piece of wood fixed in the earth with a transverse beam fastened across its top and another piece of wood projecting from the upright piece nearer the bottom on which the crucified person's feet were nailed as the cross on which the Lord Jesus suffered.

## New Testament



Usage



## New Testament Usage



Matthew 27:32 (NKJV)  
Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they compelled to bear His cross.





# New Testament Usage



Matthew 27:40  
(NKJV) and saying,  
"You who destroy  
the temple and  
build it in three  
days, save Yourself!  
If You are the Son of  
God, come down  
from the cross."

Matthew 27:42  
(NKJV) "He saved  
others; Himself He  
cannot save. If He is  
the King of Israel, let  
Him now come down  
from the cross, and  
we will believe Him.



## New Testament Usage

- It refers to the whole passion of Christ and the merit of His sufferings and death.
- Galatians 6:14 (NKJV) 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.



## New Testament Usage

- Ephesians 2:16 (NKJV) and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.



# New Testament Usage

- ...and also the doctrine concerning these
- 1 Corinthians 1:17 (NKJV) For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.



## New Testament Usage

- 1 Corinthians 1:18 (NKJV) 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.



## New Testament Usage

- Galatians 6:12 (NKJV)  
As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.



# New Testament Usage



It denotes that portion of affliction which is endured by pious and good men as a trial of their faith and to conform them to the example of their crucified Master



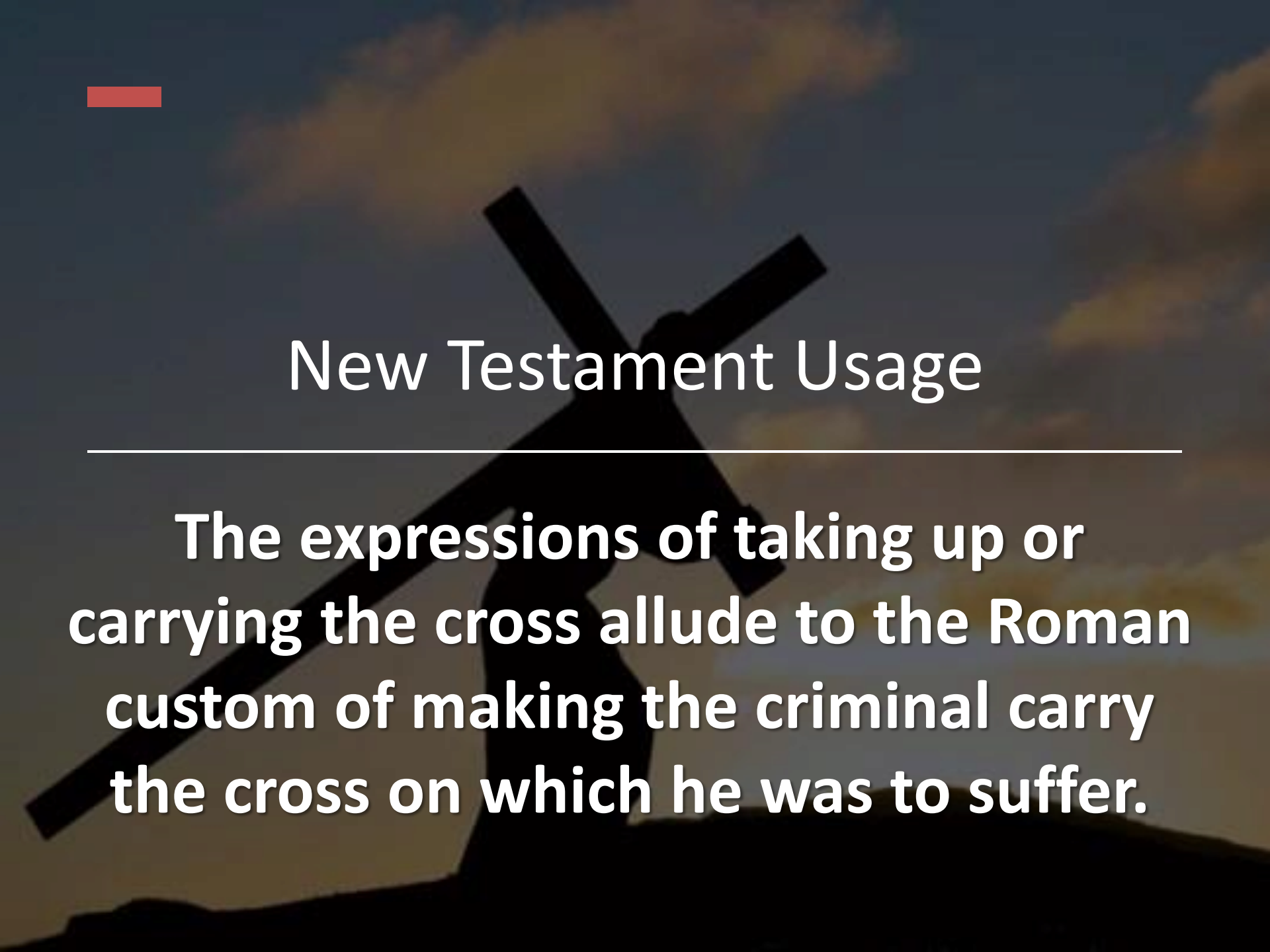
- Matthew 10:38 (NKJV) "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.
- Matthew 16:24 (NKJV) Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.



- Mark 10:21 (NKJV) Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."
- Luke 14:27 (NKJV) "And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."



HOLY  
BIBLE

A silhouette of a person carrying a cross against a sunset sky. The cross is made of two dark wooden beams. The person is carrying the cross on their back, with their arms outstretched. The background is a warm, orange and yellow sky with some clouds. In the top left corner, there is a small red horizontal bar.

## New Testament Usage

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**The expressions of taking up or carrying the cross allude to the Roman custom of making the criminal carry the cross on which he was to suffer.**

- **John 19:17 (NKJV) And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha,**
- **Some authors in the New Testament speak of this action as a sacrifice. Paul seems to indicate that it was not the sacrifice alone but that the blood shed was of Holy origin, thus producing the redemption that God could accept.**
- **Colossians 1:20 (NKJV) and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.**

# New Testament Usage

- **Philippians 2:8 (NKJV)** 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.
- **Colossians 2:14 (NKJV)** having wiped out handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And has taken it out of the way, having nailed to the cross.

- **Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)** looking unto Jesus, author and finisher of our faith, who for 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
- Some sections of scripture that refer to the cross just mean the wooden instrument used in the death of Jesus Christ. But we will see that the cross means even more. Some of the more important uses deals with the cross as the doctrine or system that it represents

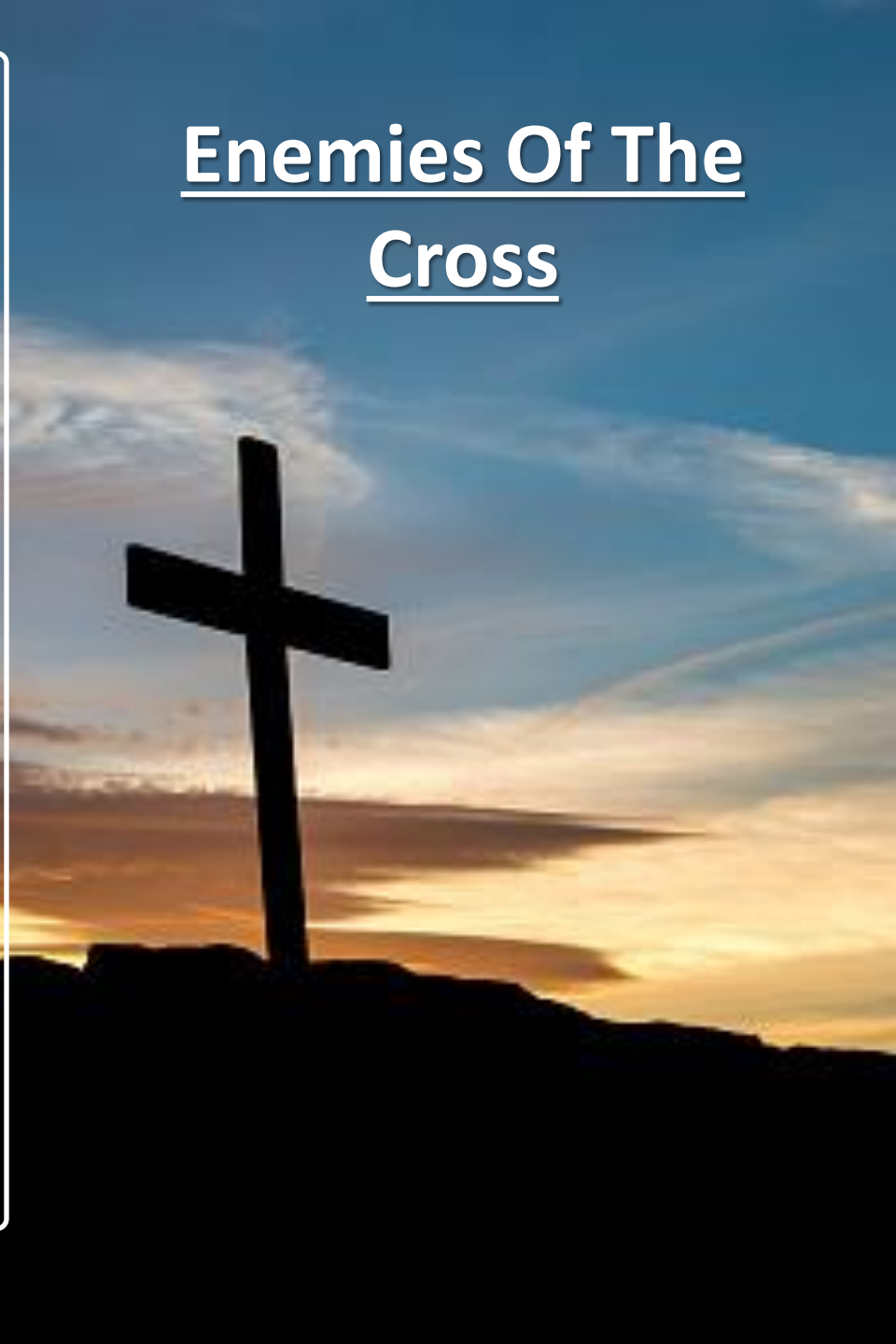
## Enemies Of The Cross

- Let's look at the characteristics of the enemies of the cross.
- v.19 whose end is destruction
- Whose god is their appetite



## Enemies Of The Cross

- Whose glory is in their shame
- Who set their minds on earthly things.
- Let us notice some categories of people who fit this description.

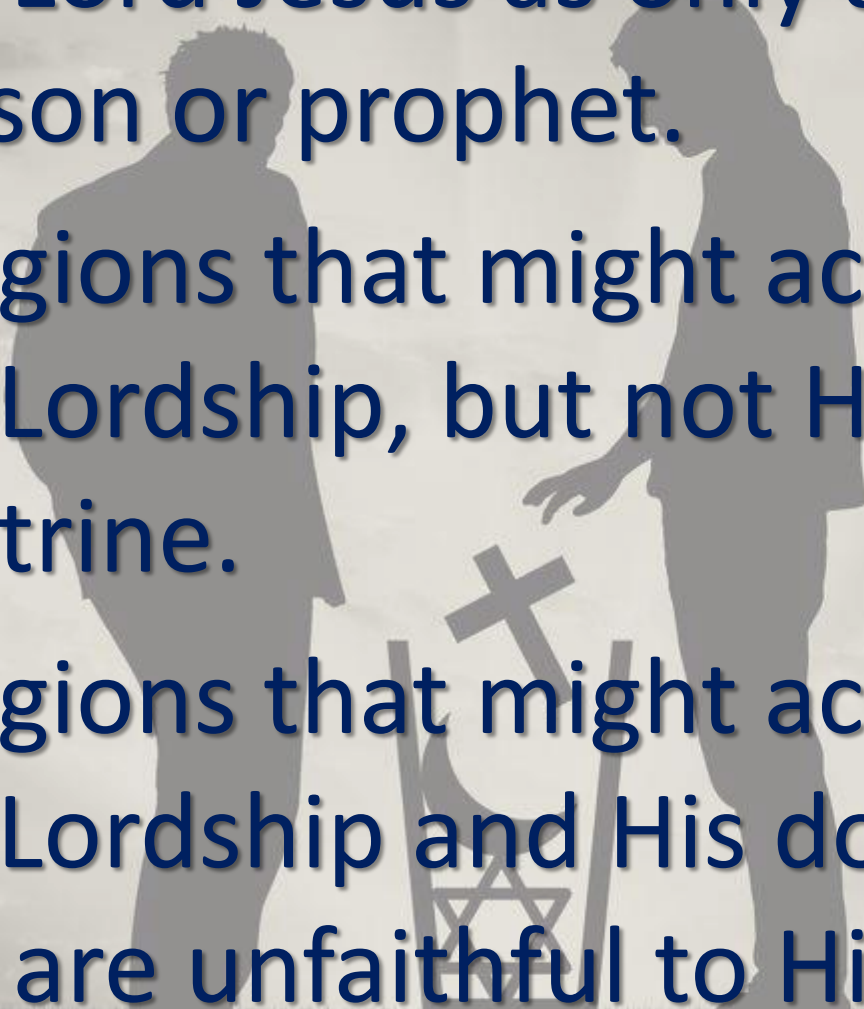




# Enemies Of The Cross

- Atheists are enemies of the cross---they deny the existence of God or anything associated with Him, including redemption, salvation, and righteousness.
- Religions that do not recognize the Lordship of Jesus the Christ.

# Enemies Of The Cross

- Religions that might recognize the Lord Jesus as only a good person or prophet.
  - Religions that might accept His Lordship, but not His doctrine.
  - Religions that might accept His Lordship and His doctrine, but are unfaithful to His word.
- 
- The background of the slide features a soft-focus landscape with a cloudy sky and a grassy foreground. In the center, two men are shown in silhouette, standing and facing each other. Between them is a wooden cross. Below the cross, a Star of David is visible on the ground. The overall tone is contemplative and religious.

## Enemies Of The Cross

- Those people who claim a good relationship but do not meet the qualifications.
- Those who ignore the Bible as the Word of God.

## Enemies Of The Cross

- False teachers that promote any doctrine contrary to the Word of God.
- Humanist who try to manipulate people into denying God.
- Humanist who try to change our standards and ideals to suit their feelings.

# Enemies Of The Cross

- False teachers who rely on feeling instead of book chapter and verse.
- Religions that wear names not found in the Bible.



# Enemies Of The Cross

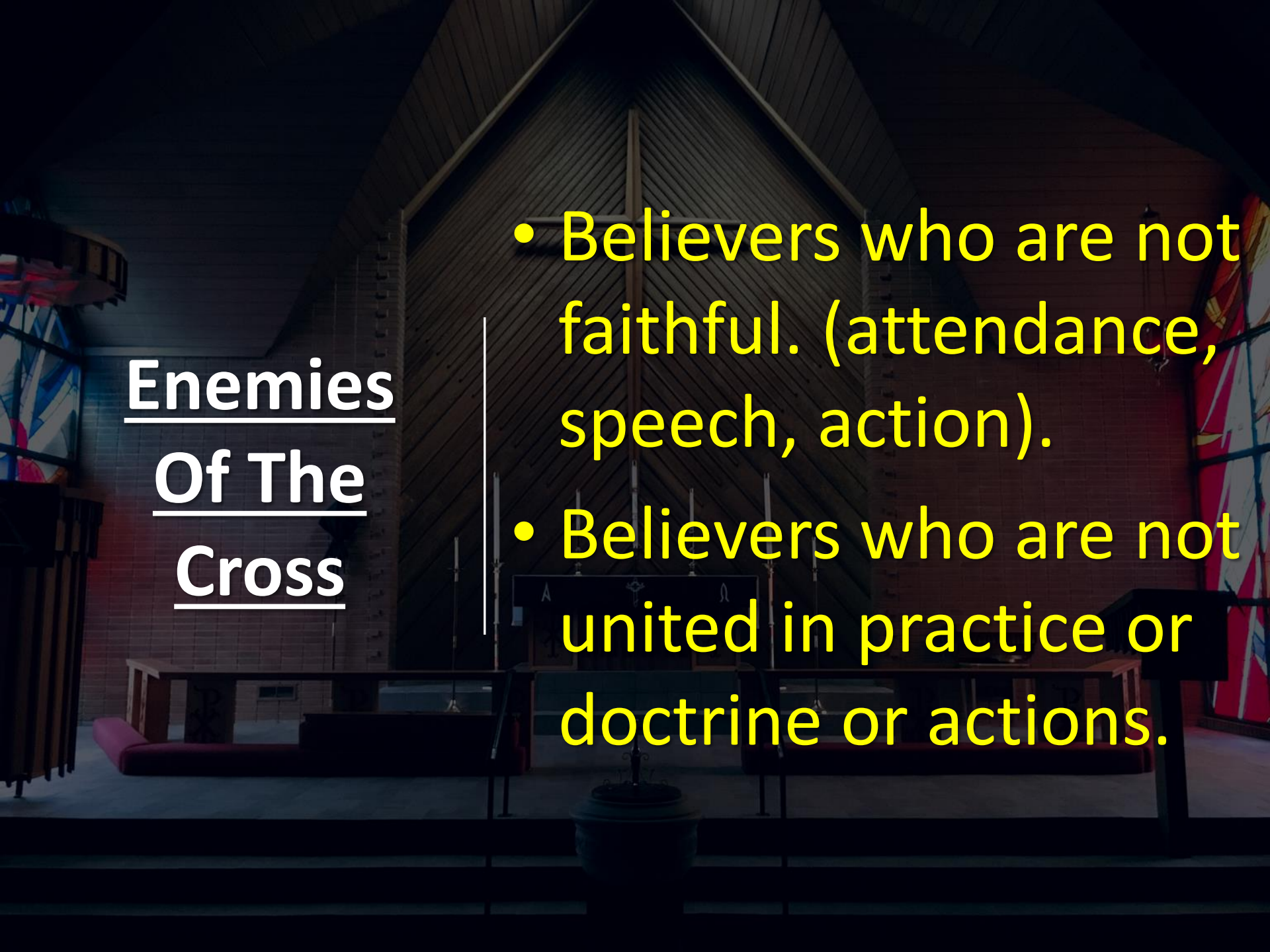
- Religions that have their own headship (governing body) convention, council, papacy, or any human body of leadership that agrees to laws and doctrinal practices.



# Enemies Of The Cross

- Religions that use rules not found in God's Word. (manuals, creeds, disciplines,).
- They are not aware that they are enemies of the Cross.

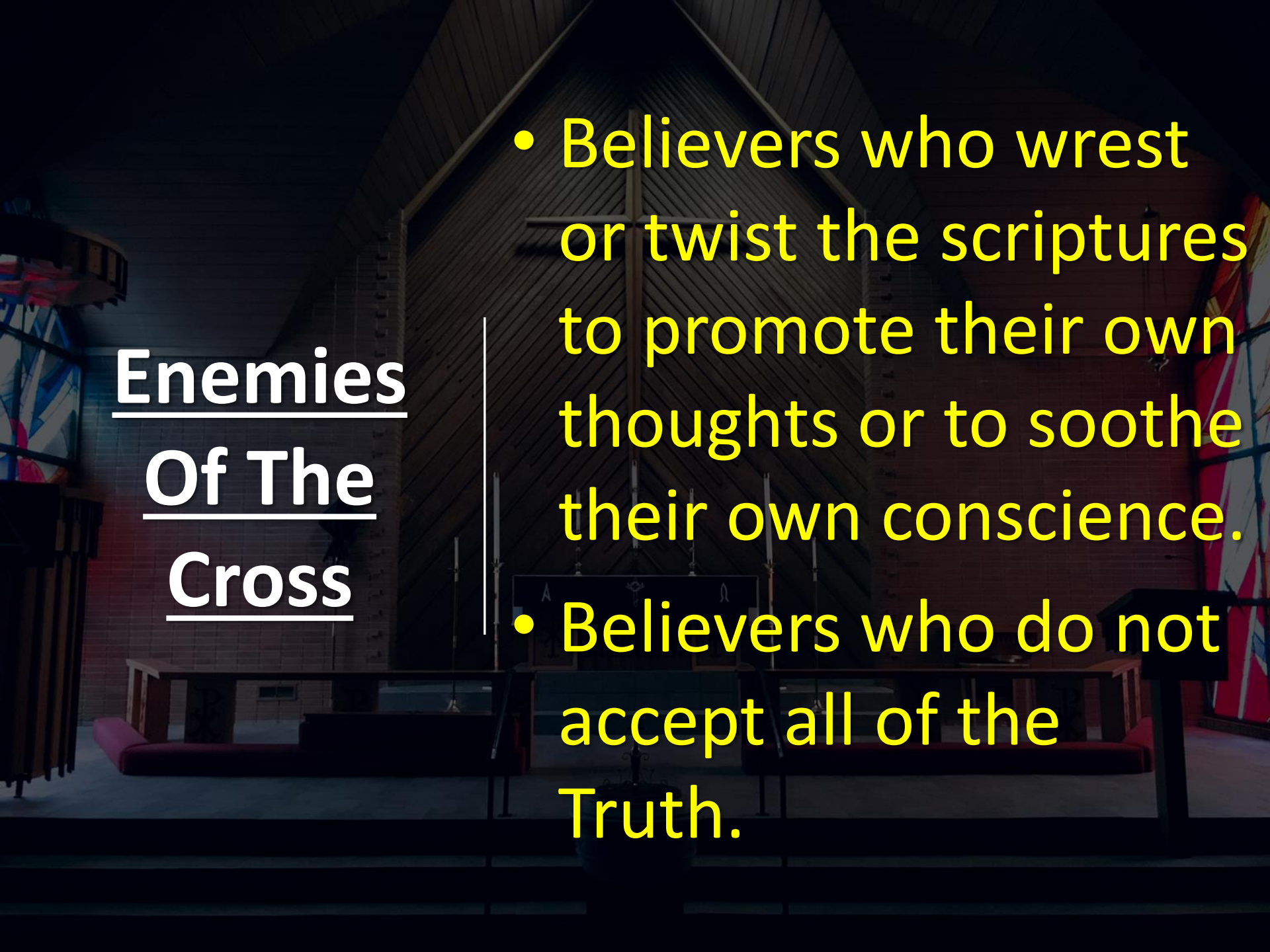




Enemies  
Of The  
Cross

- Believers who are not faithful. (attendance, speech, action).
- Believers who are not united in practice or doctrine or actions.





Enemies  
Of The  
Cross

- Believers who wrest or twist the scriptures to promote their own thoughts or to soothe their own conscience.
- Believers who do not accept all of the Truth.

- Hypocrites.
- Believers who are stumbling blocks to others.
- Believers who cause division among the brethren.
- Believers who are not spiritually minded.
- These people are enemies and do not even know it.

## Enemies Of The Cross



- **Therefore we must make certain about His calling, We must pay the more earnest heed to His words. We must stand fast in our faith and practice and teachings. We must make every effort to maintain unity without compromise of the truth.**
- **How does one come to find out they are enemies of the Cross.**
- **By the knowledge of the Son of God.**
- **By study to be able to rightly divide the meanings of the scriptures.**

# **How NOT To Be An Enemy**

- **By prayer.**
- **By effort.**
- **By godly leaders and faithful brethren to help each other.**
- **By denying themselves and taking up their own crosses.**
- **By casting all our care on Him.**
- **By obedience to all His word.**
- **By faithfulness in living.**

# **Conclusion**

- There are many in our world who are enemies of the Cross.
- Enemies of everything the cross represents.
- We saw the usage of the words in the scriptures.

# Conclusion

- We learned the characteristics of these enemies.
- We learned how NOT to be an enemy
- Have you the courage to repent of this sin of being an enemy of the cross?