

Glorying In The Cross

Introduction. In Galatians 6:14, Paul said, "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." Paul was contrasting his actions with those of the Judaizing teachers, who gloried in the external rudiments of the Law of Moses. Paul would have none of that, and instead was satisfied in glorying in the cross of Jesus Christ.

By the term "cross" Paul does not mean the mere wood on which Jesus was crucified. Paul was using a figure of speech called metonymy to represent the sufferings and death of the great Redeemer -- that death by which atonement was made for the sins of the world. Paul was willing to glory, boast or delight in this.

I. *The Gloryings Of The World*

- A. The Jews boasted that they were children of Abraham (Luke 3:8; John 8:39).
 - 1. Paul could have boasted in this as well, but he did not (2 Corinthians 11:22).
 - 2. Our ancestors will not avail to our salvation one bit, unless only by the incidental means of influence.
- B. The Pharisees boasted of their great superiority over others (Luke 18:9-14; Matthew 23:3-7).
 - 1. Paul could have boasted in this as well, but he did not (Philippians 3:4-6).
 - 2. The Pharisees were the "separated ones;" the ones who were "holy." However, pride in our supposed sinlessness is wicked in the sight of the Lord (Romans 3:23; 12:3).
- C. Men boast of their learning and talents.
 - 1. Paul could have boasted in this as well, but he did not (Acts 22:3).
 - 2. Those who possess a mind of the highest order are sometimes tempted to think of themselves as too intelligent to believe in God or follow Christ (Proverbs 3:7; Isaiah 5:21).
- D. Men boast of their civil distinctions and immunities.
 - 1. Paul could have boasted in this as well, but he did not (Acts 22:25).
 - 2. Too many feel exalted by wealth or worldly honors (Ecclesiastes 2:11; Jeremiah 9:23-24). Paul considered all of these as rubbish so that he might follow Jesus.

II. *The Gloryings Of The Apostle*

- A. Paul was determined to preach Christ and Him crucified (1 Corinthians 2:2). However, in many ways, Jesus was not someone who appealed to mankind.

1. His background and rank in the world was contemptible. Being a Galilean, Jesus was considered as poor and unlearned (John 1:46). Also, He was the son of a carpenter which was a best a modest profession (Luke 4:22; Matthew 13:55; Luke 9:58).
 2. His teachings were contemptible. Instead of preaching a message of earthly and military deliverance, He spoke of humility, mercy and forgiveness (John 18:36; Matthew 18:3-4; Luke 19:10).
 3. His work with those who were sinners and poor was contemptible. Jesus was willing to teach and serve those who were poor and who were sinners instead of catering to the religious establishment (Mark 2:15-17).
 4. His gospel, with its universal appeal, was contemptible. The Jews, who thought themselves children of Abraham, were very inhospitable to Gentiles (John 4:9). Jesus preached that salvation would be open and available to all (Mark 16:15).
 5. His death on a cross was contemptible. Crucifixion was a most wretched way to die. It was humiliating and reserved for most vile of offenders (Galatians 3:13; 5:11).
- B. The crucifixion of Jesus was a stigma upon Him and His followers. The carnal mind could not understand the significance of the cross and rejected its purpose and power. However, Paul was more than willing to boast in cross and preach about it throughout the world (Colossians 1:23).

III. ***The Reasons For Glorifying***

- A. The crucifixion provided the means to remove our guilt.
1. God rolled back the black cloud of divine displeasure by allowing Christ to become a curse for us (Galatians 3:13).
 2. Jesus stood in the place of transgressors and the just suffered for the unjust (Romans 3:24-26).
- B. The crucifixion provided us with all the blessings of salvation.
1. Sanctification (Romans 6:19-22).
 2. Assurance (2 Corinthians 5:5).
 3. Grace (2 Corinthians 9:8).
 4. Inheritance (Colossians 1:12).
 5. Pardon (Colossians 1:13-14).
 6. Peace (Colossians 1:20-22).
 7. Prayer (Hebrews 4:14-16).
- C. The crucifixion provides our only access to God.
1. Jesus is the only way of access to God (John 14:6).
 2. He is our only provision of worship to God (Hebrews 13:15).
- D. The crucifixion provides us with great incentive to love and serve God.
1. If the great sacrifice of Jesus and all that was done on the cross

- cannot melt the heart, I scarcely believe anything could (Ephesians 2:4-6).
2. A sense of obligation to Christ for His love and mercy to us will fill us with compassion to our fellow man (Luke 23:34).
- E. The crucifixion provided the means of our ultimate victory.
1. Satan sought to bring about man's demise, but Christ won the victory over sin and death (John 16:33; Romans 6:21-22; 1 Corinthians 15:54-57).
 2. As long as we take up the whole armor of God and stand with His faithful, we will be victorious (Ephesians 6:10-13).

Conclusion. Have you experienced the saving power of the cross? Have you fled to it? Do you glory in it? The rejectors of the cross must perish because there is no other Savior nor is there any other remedy. Come to the cross today and boast of its power.