

BOASTING ONLY IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST

“But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...”

Galatians 6:14

SONG # 147 - I Stand Amazed

Introduction

1. Read Gal. 6:12-16

12 “It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. 13 For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. 14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. 16 And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.”

- 2. Paul was writing to the Christians in the church to warn and remind them not to put their trust in anything they have done or can do in the flesh, but to only trust in the saving work of Jesus Christ.**
- 3. Keeping the law of the Old Testament and going through the ceremonial rites that were required no longer served as a part of God’s plan for salvation, so there was no purpose in going through these activities and then boasting as if we have done something for our salvation before the Lord.**
- 4. Paul makes it very clear that there were some Jews who wanted these Christians to be circumcised according to the Law of Moses and in so doing it would supposedly give them a reason to boast in the flesh. Paul also added that if these Christians were circumcised they would only do this to avoid persecution for the cross of Jesus Christ.**
- 5. Paul informs them that there is no boasting to be uttered, unless it is in the cross of Jesus Christ our Lord. Remember that this is coming from a man who had seen many fabulous temples, magnificent Greek sculptures, endless miles of Roman roads, and many other famous places. Paul had heard and been taught by Greek orators, knew of great philosophers and poets, and most likely was of high rank in his class under Gamaliel. Consider also that Paul was even caught up into heaven itself at one point and heard things too marvelous to repeat. But what was it that Paul would brag about as he traveled in His ministry? What one thing would motivate Paul to allow his own blood to be shed on the outskirts of the cities where he preached? Nothing...except the cross of Jesus Christ our Lord! Paul was going to boast in the public humiliation and death of the Son of God for the sins of the world.**

I. Comprehending the Message about Boasting Only In the Cross of Christ

SONG # 452 - Standing On The Promises

A. We find all kinds of things to boast about in our lives

- 1. We do a great deal of bragging about how far we can jog before getting winded, how much we can bench press, what our peers think of us in the social circle, how well we are doing in school, how many church meetings and events we have attended in a year and how successful they were, how young everyone says we look at our age, how nice our homes and vehicles might be, the number of celebrities we have met or have come to know, the job and position we maintain etc.**
- 2. Everything mentioned in that list is great, but we need to remember that without Jesus and His death on the cross, we are lost for an eternity, no matter what happens to us while we are in the flesh on this earth.**

B. We can only boast in Jesus Christ and His death on the cross for our sins

- 1. Several of our members understand this and they were asked to write down exactly what Jesus and His death on the cross means to them.**
- 2. Here is what they said:**

Bob wrote:

“About the cross: I think of what Christ had to go through...nails drove into his hands and feet and also the crown of thorns he had on his head. What pain he had to go through. This was done for all on this earth, that all can have their sins forgiven.”

Genny wrote:

“To think about the cross brings to mind the cruel death of Christ upon it. This was done for us and if we live our life following His word, that eternal life awaits us when we leave this earth. He gave His life for all and all have the same opportunity to have their sins forgiven and a home in heaven.”

Melissa wrote:

“God, in order to forgive the wicked and still be just had to die in place of the wicked. This is the only way he can forgive, by putting Himself in place of our sins. Jesus made peace between us and God. We have been justified by faith. God made him who had no sin, to be sin for us. Sin was overcome through a love that gave all. I am thankful Jesus was obedient to His Father, so that we may have a chance to be in heaven.”

II. Applying the Message about Boasting Only In the Cross of Christ

SONG # 292 - All Rise

A. We need not to minimize the cross of Christ to a personal benefit.

- 1. Sometimes in seeking to understand what the cross means to us personally, we lose site of just how great the love of the Lord was on the cross. We tend to get into the mindset that Jesus died for me and in so doing we reap personal comforts, but often can forget to share this message with others.**
- 2. As we remember Jesus in the partaking of the Lord's Supper, let us never forget that while there is personal benefit in reflecting upon Jesus and rededicating your life to Him, keep in mind that millions are still lost in sin, for whom the Lord came to seek and to save.**
- 3. As we gather in memory of the Lord's death in this time of communion, and we proclaim His death for our sins, let us remember that that proclamation is not just for those assembled as members of the church here, but that message is for all to hear and understand unto obedience to Christ Jesus our Lord.**
- 4. When we proclaim the Lord's death in breaking bread together, we proclaim the greatest message man has ever heard... "For God so loved the world..." (John 3:16a)**

B. Jesus died for the sins of the world and that is the only truth that we can ever boast about in the Lord.

Conclusion SONG # 96 - I Stand In Awe

- 1. We began today by reading Galatians 6:12-16 where Paul tells us not to trust in our flesh, but in the Lord Jesus Christ and His saving work on the cross.**
- 2. We do not boast about what we do in the flesh, but we glory in what Jesus did in the flesh when He went to the cross to die for the sins of the world. Paul shows that fleshly circumcision does nothing, but what is important is that we become new creatures in the Lord. When we are buried with Christ in baptism we are spiritually circumcised and we are dead to sin and alive in the Lord...new creatures in Christ (See Col. 2:12-13). We are crucified to the world and the world is crucified to us. Fleshly desires mean nothing, but the cross of Jesus means everything. Paul concluded, "*And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.*" We are God's people today, by being in the Lord.**
- 3. Today as Christians we partake of the Lord's Supper and we glory only in the cross of Christ Jesus our Lord.**
- 4. Let us pray as we prepare to share in the bread and fruit of the vine which are emblems of the Lord's body and blood. Remember as we pray that Jesus' death was not only for you personally, but that this sacrifice was made to have worldwide application.**

I offer a special thanks to Jim McGuigan for motivating me to address this subject after reading a portion of his book called, "The Dragon Slayer".