

# Glorying in the Cross

## Introduction

Galatians 6:12-14 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**. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. **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.

**GLORY Defined: "honor, admiration, fame, adoration, prosperity."**

**1. There are some individuals that glory in their shame.**

Philippians 3:19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame-- who set their mind on earthly things.

**2. Others glory in war, some in wealth, some in prestige, and in various other areas.**

**3. Paul glorified in the cross of Jesus Christ.**

**A. Therefore, let us consider what our text reveals:**

## The Futility of Glorifying in Things Material

1. If it were possible to trust in the flesh and please God, Paul would have said so. But he did not indicate that was the case.

**Philippians 3:4-11**

2. Our affections are to be on things heavenly.

Colossians 3:1-3 If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Matthew 6:19-21 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; **but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

3. It is futile to glory in wealth, for:

**A. It can be destroyed; it is uncertain. We just Read Matthew 6:19-21 but also notice 1 Timothy 6:6**

1 Timothy 6:6-10 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. **For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.** And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

**B. We cannot take the wealth of this world with us (verse 7).**

4. **It is futile to glory in our own strength, for:**
  - A. **Bodily exercise is profitable only in this life as Paul told Timothy (1 Timothy 4:8).**
  - B. **Our thoughts are not God's thoughts.**

Isaiah 55:7-9 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. **"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,"** says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

5. **Salvation is not ours in consequence of our might or intelligence. To have salvation we must glory in the cross of Christ.**

Galatians 6:14 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.

Romans 3:23-26 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

## The Cross is the Grounds for Glorifying for the Christian

1. It is a stumblingblock for some individuals.  
**1 Corinthians 1:23-25**
  
2. The cross of Christ is a source of glorying to those who obey Jesus (v24).
  - A. It is a source of glorying because:
    - 1) Of the love of Christ who suffered there.  
**Romans 5:6-11**
  
    - 2) Of the fact that the innocent suffered for the guilty there.  
**1 Peter 2:22-25**
  
    - 3) Of the reconciliation brought through His suffering on the cross.  
**Ephesians 2:16**
  
    - 4) Of the fact that without the cross there could be no remission of sins.  
**Hebrews 9:22**
  
    - 5) Of the fact that by the cross we died to the world of sin as our text that we read indicates (Galatians 6:12-14).
  
    - 6) Of the fact that by the cross we have the hope of life eternal.  
**John 3:16-18**

- 3. All that was brought by the cross was glorious.**
- A. It portrayed a glorious love as we read in Romans chap 5.**
  - B. It made possible a glorious sacrifice.**  
**Hebrews 9:23-28; 10:5-10**
  - C. It made possible a sanctified and special people.**

Titus 2:14 who gave Himself for us, that He might **redeem us from every lawless deed** and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

2 Corinthians 5:14-16 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, **that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again**. Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.

- D. It purchased a glorious institution, the church.**

Acts 20:28 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God **which He purchased with His own blood**.

- E. It accomplished a glorious redemption.**

Ephesians 1:7 In Him **we have redemption through His blood**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

## Some Implications of the Cross

### 1. It implies that I have been crucified to the world (Gal 6:12-14).

Romans 6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:12 Therefore **do not let sin reign in your mortal body**, that you should obey it in its lusts.

Romans 6:17-18 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet **you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered**. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

### 2. It means that I have died “with” Christ.

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

### 3. It means that I should desire to know the fellowship of His suffering.

Philippians 3:10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, **being conformed to His death**,

### 4. It means that I should come to know the power of submission to God in my own life as we read in Hebrews 10 and 1 Peter 2.

## Conclusion

1. **Are we glorying in our own accomplishments? Are we glorying in our shame?**
2. **Or are we glorying in the cross of Christ?**
  - A. **Our life tells the whole story. We cannot fool God and most of the time we cannot fool our fellow man.**
3. **Hypocrites will not have a place in heaven. Jesus clearly said:**

Matthew 12:30 "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

Matthew 6:24 "**No one can serve two masters**; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

4. **Glory in the cross of Jesus Christ, not in our own material goods!**

