

Why Boast in the Cross? Galatians 6:14

Intro: Paul is writing his letter to the churches of Galatia for a number of reasons: 1. to defend his apostolic authority, 2. to counteract the effects of the **Judaizers** or legalists, and to show that their doctrine destroyed the very essence of the gospel, 3. to encourage and strengthen the Galatian believers in their faith.

It is that second reason, to show that the legalist's doctrine actually destroyed the essence of the gospel, the Paul is addressing in chapter 6:14. He captures the essence of the gospel in this one statement.

[Read Galatians 6:14/Pray/release Children's Church]

As human beings, we are all pretty good at boasting.

"Look what I did?"

"See what I can do."

"Mine is better than yours."

These sayings come so natural to us that if we were to enter any kindergarten class or pre-school we would have little ones coming up to us by the droves proudly boasting unashamedly about any feat imaginable.

And children are not the only ones who are good at boasting.

Politicians get elected by boasting about their achievements.

Businesses make their money by boasting about their products.

And many of us spend our entire lives working hard to achieve positions of power, bank accounts full of money, and all sorts of possessions in order to boast to the world: "Look how good I am! Look at me! Look at what I can do!"

Of course, much of this comes from our insecurities, our feelings of inferiority which infest our lives with demons and cause us to do things we would never otherwise do—or say things that we would never otherwise say—in order to gain approval from the world.

Two geese, when about to start southwards on their annual autumn migration, were entreated by a frog to take him with them. On the geese expressing their willingness to do so if a means of conveyance could be devised, the frog produced a stalk of long grass, got the two geese to take it one by each end, while he clung to it by his mouth in the middle. In this manner the three were making their journey successfully when they were noticed from below by some men, who loudly expressed their admiration of the device, and wondered who had been clever enough to discover it. The vainglorious frog, opening his mouth to say, "It was me," lost his hold, fell to the earth and was dashed to pieces. —J. Gilmour

Boasting is not a trait that people should engage in especially Christian people. Paul, however, says in our text that there is something worthy of boasting in – THE CROSS.

Paul said **"...woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!"** (1 Corinthians 9:16). The cross is at the very center of everything that is found in the gospel. That is why Paul says in our text that he going to glory in nothing but the cross.

The Cross is the message we have for the world today. We have no other message. Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures. He was buried and rose again the third day according to the scriptures. That's the gospel. That's what the cross is about.

Why did Paul say that he wanted to boast in nothing but the Cross of Jesus Christ?

Paul said that he wanted to only boast in the cross because he understood what took place there on his behalf.

Paul said I boast in the cross because he understood that at the cross...

1. **God's Redemptive plan was completed there.** To truly appreciate the cross we must start in the mind of God before the creation. It portrays the determination of a holy God to save hostile man. But we must

begin at the beginning—and **"In the beginning was God."** So our understanding of the cross must begin in the counsel chambers of eternity, before the foundations of the world were established. **"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love"** (Eph. 1:4). The shadow of the cross fell upon the earth while it was still without form and void. The Cross of Calvary was in the mind of God and the heart of Jesus before light streamed across the earth, or sin plunged it into darkness again. Now the Cross of Calvary was not an emergency plan thrust upon God to save man. It was His divine plan all along

a. **His redemptive plan was...**

- i. **Spoken of in Genesis 3:15** **"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."**
- ii. **Pictured in the life of Abraham and Isaac** in Genesis 22
 1. Abraham, rewarded for his faithfulness, was given a son in his old age – Isaac.
 2. Genesis 22:2 says that God told Abraham to **"...Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of."**
 - a. **"...thine only son Isaac..."** in this verse calls us forward a few thousand years and John 3:16
 - b. He was to take his son to the top of mount Moriah which means "seen of Jehovah"
 - c. God was looking forward to another mount where another **"only son"** would be sacrificed.
- iii. **Propheesied** in Is 53
 1. Vv. 1-3 speak of the lowly beginnings of the servant Christ
 2. Vv. 4-6 speak of the sufferings of Christ
 3. Vv. 7-9 speak of the silence of Christ
 4. Vv. 10-12 speak of the sacrifice of Christ

iv. **Completed at the Cross**

1. **Jesus said it was complete**

- a. In John 17 Jesus is praying just before His arrest and He says, in verse 4, **"I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."**
- b. Then, in John 19:30, as He hung there between two thieves, between heaven and Hell, between life and death, **"...he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."**

2. **Scripture predicted that it would be complete.**

- a. 1 Corinthians 15:3 **"Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"**

b. **His redemptive plan always included the Cross**

- i. **"Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."** Romans 4:25
- ii. **"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,"** Ephesians 1:4-5

c. **ILL:** God's redemptive plan can be seen there in the garden as Eve draws near forbidden territory and discussing forbidden fruit with forbidden company! Oh, how the deceiver delights to deceive and destroy! "Don't touch that tree!" we want to shout across the sands of time, "If you touch it another tree must rise on another hill called Golgotha. If touch it, another Adam must die upon another tree to satisfy justice in the court of Heaven" we think as we once again visit that scene there in the garden.

d. **Paul looked at the cross and could say with Jesus, "It is finished" God's redemptive plan was now complete; all the necessary pieces were not in place.**

2. **God's Love for man was demonstrated there**

- a. **"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."** John 3:16

- b. Romans 5:5-8 *“And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. ⁸But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*
- c. Ephesians 2:4 *“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,”*
3. **God’s Grace and Mercy were bestowed there**
- a. Grace is
- God’s unmerited favor or:
 - G-od’s R-iches A-t C-hrist’s E-pense
 - Grace is getting something we don’t deserve
- b. Mercy is not getting something we do deserve
- c. **What we do deserve is Separation from God - condemnation and death**
- Romans 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*
- d. **What we received at the cross**
- Was Salvation**
 - It is the John 3:17 *“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”*
 - Romans 10:13 *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*
 - Ephesians 2:4-8 *“[But God...] when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;); ⁶And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: ⁷That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”*
 - Was Peace with God** Romans 5:1 *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”*
 - Was a Heritage**
 - Adoption into His eternal family**
 - He gave us the right to be called his son/daughter**
 - Romans 8:15 *“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”*
 - Galatians 4:5 *“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”*
 - Ephesians 1:5 *“Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,”*
4. **God’s Ultimate Victory was Won there**
- 1 Corinthians 15:51-57 *“Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵²In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*
 - Victory over pain and suffering - immortality**
 - Victory over death**
 - Victory over the grave**

Conclusion: . The cross consisted of a perpendicular stake with a crossbeam either at the top of the stake or shortly below the top. The height of the stake was usually little more than the height of a man. A block or a pin was sometimes driven into the stake to serve as a seat for the condemned person, giving partial support to his body. Sometimes also a step for the feet was fixed to the stake.

Victims of crucifixion did not usually die for 2 or 3 days. But this was determined by the presence or absence of the seat and the foot rest, for a person suspended by his hands lost blood pressure quickly, and the pulse rate was increased. Usually the victim had been severely scourged before crucifixion took place. Total collapse through insufficient blood circulation to the brain and the heart would follow shortly. If the victim could ease his body by supporting himself with the seat and footrest, the blood could be returned to some degree of circulation in the upper part of his body.

To fix the hands to the cross beam either cords or nails and cords were used; sometimes the feet were nailed also. When it was desired to bring the torture to an end, the victim's legs were broken below the knees with a club. It was then no longer possible for him to ease his weight, and the loss of blood circulation was accentuated.

Coronary insufficiency followed shortly. The victim's offense was usually published by a crier who preceded him to the place of execution. Sometimes it was written on a tablet which was carried by the condemned man himself.