

**“Be My Glory Ever”**  
**Galatians 6:11-14**

**Introduction:**

1. Please Head Back With Me Once Again To Galatians 6!
  - We Are Getting Very Close To The End:
    - Of Our Study Of This Letter:
      - Written By The Apostle Paul:
      - And Inspired By The Spirit Of God!
2. As Paul Writes His Closing Remarks:
  - He Knows That It Will Be Challenging & Difficult:
    - For Us To Follow After:
      - All Of The Instructions He Has Given:
        - To Walk In The Way Of Faith Instead Of The Way Of The Flesh!
    - It Is Difficult:
      - Because There Are So Many Distractions:
        - As We Seek To “Walk In The Spirit!”
        - And I’m Afraid That We Know All Too Well What Some Of Those Distractions Are, Don’t We?
          - Our Sins - “Which Doth So Easily Beset Us!” (Hebrews 12:1)
          - Our Relationships!
          - And “The Cares Of This World!”
      - There Are So Many Things:
        - That Can Get Our Attention & Our Focus:
          - Off The Lord!
            - **IE:** We Are Often Like A Dog On A Walk - Everything’s Going Well Until We See That “Squirrel!”
      - And So - Sometimes Our Walk With The Lord:
        - Seems More Like An Obstacle Course!
          - But Many Of The Obstacles That We Go Through:
            - Are Obstacles Of Our Own Making & Of Our Own Choosing!
3. So In The Verses We Come To This Morning:
  - Paul Writes To Keep Us From:
    - Being Easily Distracted:
      - In Our Walk With The Lord!
  - In 6:11-14 We Read - “Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand. / As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. / For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh. / 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!”
4. What We Will Learn From These Verses This Morning Is This:
  - To Keep Us From Being Distracted:
    - In Our Christian Lives – We Need To:
      - Keep Our Gaze On Christ & Our Glory In His Cross! (2x)
  - Let’s Look At These Verses More Closely Together!

\* First - To Keep From Being Distracted - We Need To:

**1. Keep Our Gaze On Christ!**

- See This In 6:11-12!
  - **IE:** Have You Ever Caught Yourself Gazing Off To The Side As You Are Driving Down The Road? Maybe Something Caught Your Eye! A Beautiful Sunset! A Couple Of Deer Running Through The Field! Someone Walking Down The Road & Waving To You! What Tends To Happen? If Your Gaze Lingers Too Long Off To The Side, You Start To Drift That Way! You Need To Quickly Correct Your Direction To Keep Going Straight Down The Road!
    - Well - Whenever We Are Distracted In Our Christian Lives - We Need A Course Correction As Well!
    - We Need To Keep Our Gaze On Christ!
    - And In These Two Verses, We See Why!

- We Need To Keep Our Gaze On Christ:
  - Because Of The Word Of God To Us!
    - 6:11 - "Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand!"
      - This Is An Interesting Verse & Has Produced Much Speculation About Its Meaning!
  - However - The Word Translated "Letter" In This Verse:
    - Was Actually Written As A Plural:
      - "Letters!"
        - It Is Not Just Describing *What* Paul Wrote In This Letter!
    - It Is Describing *How* Paul Wrote This Letter!
      - Not The *Size* Of The Letter:
        - But The *Size* Of The Lettering!
      - With "Large Letters!"
        - Now - We Do Not Have The Original Manuscript - So We Can't See What Paul Was Talking About, But It Sounds Like The Entire Letter Was Written With Big, Bold Greek Letters By The Hand Of The Apostle Paul Himself!
  - Now - Why Would Paul Do Something Like This?
    - Well - If You've Ever Sent An Email Or A Text Or Posted Something On Facebook - To Emphasize Something / To Get Someone's Attention - You Write It In All Caps! It's Like You Are Shouting When You Are Writing!
      - And It Seems Like This Is What Paul Is Describing Here As Well!
        - It Wasn't Just The Size:
  - But The Scope Of His Message!
    - Remember - Paul's Words Were Inspired By God:
      - And So - His Words Are God's Words!
      - And Every Word Was Important!
    - He Was Reminding Them:
      - Of Some Pretty Important Truths!
        - The Gospel!
        - Walking In The Spirit!
    - And He Wanted Them & Us:
      - To Pay Attention:
        - Not Just To His Words! But To God's Word!
      - And So In 6:11 - He Tells Us To:
        - "See" What He Wrote & Even How He Wrote! Also See:
  - The Significance Of His Message!
    - He Wrote To Them Personally Because He Cared For Them Deeply!
      - He Wrote - "With Mine Own Hand!"
        - Now - With His Other Letters, He Didn't Always Do This!
    - He Would Often Use A Secretary:
      - An Amanuensis - To Transcribe His Words As He Spoke Them!
        - In Romans / In 2 Thessalonians / But Not Here!
  - And Isn't This What The Entire Word Of God Is To Us?
    - Psalm 17:4 - It Is The Very "Word Of God's Lips!"
      - God Gave Us His Message / Word Personally Because He Cares For Us Deeply!
    - And The Central Content Of His Word:
      - Is Jesus!
        - And So - Whenever We Get Distracted By The "Cares Of This World!"
  - We Need To Keep Our Gaze On Christ:
    - Through His Word To Us! Also:
- We Need To Keep Our Gaze On Christ:
  - Because Of The Will Of Others For Us!
    - 6:12 - "As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ!"
      - In Contrast To Both God's Care For Us & Paul's Care For Us:
        - We See That The False Leaders & Teachers Of The Galatian Churches:
          - Only Cared For Themselves!
      - They Cared For:
        - Their Own Ambition!

- "To Make A Fair Show In The Flesh!"
  - Everything They Taught & Did:
    - Was Not To Please God, But To Please & Gain The Favor Of Other Men! To Impress!
  - **IE:** It Was Like "A Piece Of Pageantry" For Them! Like The Pageants At The County Fair! The Cutest Baby! The Baby With The Most Hair! The Fattest Baby! Ok - Probably Not That One! But The Focus Is On The Outward Appearance!
    - But Remember Where God Looks? "The Lord Looketh On The Heart!" (1 Samuel 16:7)
  - Jesus Describes Them & Their Ambition:
    - In Matthew 23:27-28 - "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. / Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity!"
  - A Christian Should Not Be Distracted:
    - By This Kind Of Ambition & Appearance!
      - Keep Your Gaze On Christ!
      - Also Cared For:
- Their Own Adherents!
  - 6:12 - "They Constrain You To Be Circumcised!"
    - All They Cared About!
      - Not Your Heart & The Inside!
      - But Your Flesh & The Outside!
    - And So They Do All They Can:
      - To Get You To Follow After Their Teaching & Their Way Of Living!
  - Remember What Paul Said:
    - In 1:10 - "For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ!"
  - We Need To Keep Our Gaze On Christ:
    - And His Teaching & Example!
    - But They Also Cared For:
- Their Own Avoidance!
  - At The End Of 6:12 - Paul Gets To The Root & Motive Of These False Leaders:
    - "Only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ!"
  - They Didn't Want To "Suffer Persecution!"
    - They Were Afraid!
      - And So They Were Ashamed Of The Gospel!
        - And So They Attempted To Change The Gospel Into Something That It Could Never Be!
- And This Is Why:
  - The Gaze Of Every Christian:
    - Must Stay On Christ!
      - Because It Is So Easy To Be Distracted By Other People & Other Problems!
  - Instead - When We Keep Our Gaze On Christ:
    - We Can Say With The Apostle Paul In:
      - Romans 1:16 - "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth!"
  - Keep Your Gaze On Christ!
    - Because Of The Word Of God To You!
      - And His Care For You! And:
    - Because Of The Will Of Others For You!
      - And Their Care For Themselves!
    - Only One Is Worthy Of Your Gaze!
      - So Keep "Looking Unto Jesus!" (Hebrews 12:2)

\* Second - To Keep From Being Distracted - We Need To:

**2. Keep Our Glory In The Cross!**

- See This In 6:13-14!

- **IE:** What Do You Take Pride In? Some Take Pride In Their Work! In Their Homes! In Their Yards! In Their Cars! That Which You “Take Pride” In Consumes A Lot Of Your Time, Energy & Even Your Money! Jesus Puts It This Way In Matthew 6:21 - “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also!”
    - Now - Is It Wrong To Do Your Best In All Of These Things? No! They Can All Be Done “Unto The Lord!” But Can They All Be A Distraction To God’s Purpose For Your Life? Yes!
      - John Calvin - “Where Man’s Highest Good Exists, There Is His Glory!”
      - And So - Whenever We Are Distracted In Our Christian Lives - We Need Remember Where Our Glory Must Lie!
    - Jeremiah 9:23-24 - “Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: / But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD!”
      - We Need To Keep Our Glory In Christ & In His Cross!
      - And In The Next Two Verses, We See Why!
  - We Need To Keep Our Glory In The Cross:
    - Because Of What Is Worthless!
      - 6:13 - “For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh!”
      - Paul Continues To Describe The False Leaders & Teachers & Illustrates For Us What Is Not Worthy Of Your Glory & Your Pride! See:
    - A Worthless Focus!
      - “Neither They Themselves Who Are Circumcised Keep The Law!”
      - This Is Very Telling!
      - They Wanted The Galatians To Keep The Law:
        - By Being Circumcised!
        - But They Failed To Keep The Rest Of The Law:
          - Of Which Circumcision Was Only A Small Part!
      - As Jesus Warned In Matthew 23:23:
        - “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone!”
      - If You Are Going To Keep The Law:
        - Then You Need To Understand & Keep The Whole Law!
        - And So - Their Focus On The Law Was Insincere / Inconsistent / And Incomplete!
          - It Was Worthless!
      - So - We Must Not Keep Our Focus:
        - On Something Worthless! Also See:
    - A Worthless Flesh!
      - “But desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh!”
      - This Was All They Wanted!
        - To Have Followers As A Trophy To Show Others Who They Wanted To Impress!
      - All About The Flesh!
        - All About The External!
        - All About What Man Can Do & What Man Can See!
        - But It Was Worthless!
  - Isn’t It Easy For Us To Fall Prey To This:
    - Kind Of Thinking & Focus?
      - Look At What I Can Do!
      - Look At How Many Followers We Have!
      - Instead Of - Look At What God Is Doing!
      - And What God Sees! In The Heart! And So:
- We Need To Keep Our Glory In The Cross:
  - Because Of What Is – Who Is Worthy!
    - 6:14 - “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!"
  - This Is The Only Reason & The Only Way To Glory & Boast For A Christian!
  - It Is In The "Cross Of Our Lord Jesus Christ!"
- Now This Does Not Mean:
  - In The Wood Of Cross!
    - But In The Work Of The Cross!
      - That Is - Everything That The Cross Of Jesus Is & Means!
  - It Is The Cross Of "Our Lord Jesus Christ!"
    - This Means That:
- As The Cross Of The Lord:
  - It Is His Sovereign Work!
    - 2 Timothy 1:9 - "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began!"
  - We Can Glory In:
    - God's Sovereign Plan For The Cross!
      - What Man Meant For Evil!
      - God Meant For God!
      - And So Jesus Went To The Cross Willingly To Fulfill That Plan!
  - Is Your Glory In His Cross?
- As The Cross Of Jesus:
  - It Is His Saving Work!
    - The Name "Jesus" Means "Savior!"
      - He Was The Only One Who Could Save Us From Our Sin! And So:
  - We Can Glory In:
    - God's Saving Power Through The Cross!
      - John 3:16 - "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!"
  - Is Your Glory In His Cross?
- As The Cross Of Christ:
  - It Is His Satisfying Work!
    - Jesus Fulfilled & Satisfied Everything That Was Necessary For Our Salvation!
      - His Life / Death / Resurrection!
    - Nothing Is Left For Us To Fulfill:
      - Except Believe!
  - We Can Glory In:
    - God's Satisfied Promises In The Cross!
      - Because When Jesus Said "It Is Finished" From The Cross - He Meant It!
- As The Cross Of Our Lord Jesus Christ:
  - It Is His Special Work!
    - To Give Us Pardon!
    - To Give Us Peace!
  - And All Because Of His Great Love For Us!
    - John 15:13 - "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends!"
  - We Can Glory In:
    - God's Special Purpose:
      - To "Seek And To Save That Which Was Lost!"
        - You & Me!
- And The Cross Of Our Lord Jesus Christ:
  - Which Seems To Spell Defeat From A Human Perspective:
    - From God's Perspective – It Spells Victory!
      - Over The World / Our Flesh / The Devil Himself!
  - And So - The Only Thing Worthy Of Your Glory:
    - Is The Cross Of The Lord Jesus Christ!
- "It Was A Glorious Savior Who Died; It Was A Glorious Love That Led Him To Die; It Was A Glorious Object To Redeem A World; And It Is Unspeakable Glory To Which He Will Raise The Lost And Ruined sinners By His Death! O Who Would Not Glory In Such A Savior!" (Albert Barnes)

**Conclusion:**

1. So - In A World Filled With Distractions:
  - Remember To:
    - Keep Your Gaze On Christ & Your Glory In His Cross!
  - And At The End Of Verse 14:
    - We Discover That It Is Christ & His Cross:
      - That Makes Even This Possible!
  - "By whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world!"
    - When We Keep Our Focus On Christ & His Cross:
      - The Influence Of The World:
        - Will No Longer Be A Distraction To Us:
          - Because "The World Is Crucified Unto Us!"
      - And Our Interest In The World:
        - Will No Longer Be A Distraction To Us:
          - Because "We Are Crucified Unto The World!"
2. And We Owe It All To Jesus Christ & His Cross!
  - Because As Jesus Himself Said In John 16:33"
    - "I have overcome the world!"
  - So - In A World Filled With Distractions:
    - Remember To:
      - Keep Your Gaze On Christ & Your Glory In His Cross!

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