

July 15, 2012  
"Boasting / Glorifying in the Cross"

Galatians 6:14

<sup>14</sup> 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. (Gal 6:14 NKJ)

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. (Gal 6:14 KJV)

I. What does it mean to boast or glory in anything, regularly or Biblically?

καυχᾶμαι kauchaomai {kow-khah'-om-ah-ee} Meaning: 1) to glory (whether with reason or without) 2) to glory on account of a thing 3) to glory in a thing

1. I have boasted recently about a couple of things:
  - A. When my children were here we went to Columbia Restaurant in Tampa – I boasted about their delicious food
  - B. A certain kind roach bait – great for killing roaches
  - C. We all may boast about the fitness of certain products to perform certain tasks ...
2. When Paul says "God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" he is not talking about tasty food or killing roaches, no, he is speaking about ultimate things, eternal life or death, how to get to Heaven!
3. What is referred to here is a much BIGGER kind of BOASTING –

John Stott says this very well –

*"to boast in, glory in, trust in, rejoice and live for. The object of our boast or glory fills our horizons, engrosses our attention and absorbs our time and energy. In a word, our 'glory' (boast) is our obsession."*

Paul would obsess about the cross, make it his ONE THING, the main thing he would preach about –

"For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2 NKJ) - because it was the one and only thing that truly brings SALVATION –

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18 NKJ)

4. When we boast / glory in anything Biblically we are saying that

is worthy of our lives, our commitment, our all –

For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (Philippians 1:21 NKJ)  
Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; <sup>24</sup> But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD. (Jeremiah 9:23-24 NKJ)

II. Why would anyone in Christ's church not make His cross their boast?

1. The cross of Jesus Christ is not popular with the ungodly, it never has been, it never will be –
  - A. The cross of Jesus Christ's leaves us no righteousness at all that we can claim our own; He died in our place, only because it was such a criminal's death we deserved!
  - B. Our claiming the cross, making it our boast or glory means we are admitting we deserved such a death.
2. In Paul's day, as well as ours, the 'religious' of the world preferred ceremony, works, that they might appear righteous, this is what this letter and context are about –

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. <sup>13</sup> For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. (Galatians 6:12-13 NKJ)

3. Others today want their preaching to speak to felt needs, and much of this is legitimate. Preaching about family, finances, other things of this world may have a degree of purpose as God's Word speaks to just about EVERY issue, and yet these things and interest in them can crowd out time speaking to our need of salvation. Speaking about Christ's cross may be crowded out –

"Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. (Matthew 13:22 NKJ)

III. Why should we make Christ's Cross our BOAST / GLORY? Because it is powerful for salvation!

1. It powerfully shows us the truth about our sin –

*A. The Bible does this –*

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. (Genesis 6:5 NKJ)

As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;"<sup>11</sup> There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. (Romans 3:10-11 NKJ)

*B. Christ Himself tells us of our sins –*

"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. (Matthew 15:19 NKJ)

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me."<sup>43</sup> "Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word."<sup>44</sup> "You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it. (John 8:42-44 NKJ)

*C. Paul admits this even about himself –*

I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.<sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.<sup>23</sup> But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.<sup>24</sup> O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? (Romans 7:21-24 NKJ)

This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. (1 Timothy 1:15 NKJ)

*D. The cross shows:*

*D1. Our great hate for God –*

"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it* hated you. (John 15:18 NKJ)

*D2. The punishment sin deserves –*

For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23 NKJ)

*2. The cross powerfully shows us God's LOVE –*

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."<sup>17</sup>

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (John 3:16-17 NKJ)

*A. This love is shown most dramatically from the cross –*

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. (John 15:13 NKJ)

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." .... (Luke 23:34 NKJ)

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8 NKJ)

*B. This love compels our own in return –*

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;<sup>15</sup> 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. (2 Corinthians 5:14-15 NKJ)

*3. The cross is powerful bringing us to salvation –*

*A. Its message convicts the sinful heart –*

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:36-37 NKJ)

*B. Its message is powerful and needed for salvation –*

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. (Romans 1:16 NKJ)

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18 NKJ)

*4. The cross of Christ is powerful in the way it glorifies God –*

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,"<sup>2</sup> "as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him."<sup>3</sup> "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."<sup>4</sup> "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do."<sup>5</sup> "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. (John 17:1-5 NKJ)

*Arnold A. Brevick*