

THE CROSS PAUL'S GLORY, OUR GLORY GAL. 6:14

INTRO:

- The substitutionary death of Christ is the theme of the whole bible, from Gen. 3:15, through the Passover, where God marked out for Himself a people through the death and shedding of the blood of a chosen lamb, through all the sacrifices and offerings, through the poetry and prophecies and into the book of Revelation where we still see a Lamb as though He had just been slain.
- The "cross" is referenced in Gal. 2:20, 3:13, 4:5, 5:11, 5:24, 6:12 and 6:14.
- The cross in Paul's day was the ultimate example of weakness, failure and shame.
- Notice it is the cross of "our Lord Jesus Christ."
- One of the greatest reasons Paul boasted in the cross of Christ was because he now knew the Christ of the cross.
- Paul mentions Jesus about 45X in Gal. and about 500X in his writings.
- Read **Gal. 6:12-14**

WHAT IS MEANT BY THE "THE CROSS?"

WHAT IS THE DOCTRINE OF "THE CROSS?"

WHY DID PAUL BOAST IN THE CROSS?

WHAT DOES PAUL MEAN WHEN SAYING THE WORLD IS CRUCIFIED TO HIM?

1) WHAT IS MEANT BY THE "THE CROSS?"

- Paul did not boast or glory in a crucifix. Paul did not mean the literal physical wooden cross on which he was put to death.
 - The physical, literal cross was his meaning in Phil. 2:8, "Christ became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."
- He also did not mean the afflictions or suffering of the path that he was called to walk.
 - This was Christ's meaning when in Mt. 10:38 He says, "he that does not take up his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."
- He also did not mean the doctrine of dying to self. The word cross used figuratively as the discipline of our daily dying to sin and self.
 - This he meant in Rom. 6:6 "knowing this that our old man is crucified with Christ that the body of sin might be destroyed that we should no longer be in bondage to sin. Or Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ,..."
- What Paul does mean is the cross, the crucifixion, that place of where the greatest transaction between man and a holy God took place.
- Where holy justice and mercy met.
 - Ps. 85:10; Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed.

- Where our atonement, justification and redemptions were settled.
- Where Jesus suffered and died in my place, offering up Himself as the perfect spotless offering and sacrifice for my sin.
 - This is Paul's meaning again in 1 Cor. 1:18, 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.
 - The all sufficient, substitutionary, and satisfactory sacrifice of Christ upon the cross, here was finished the whole work of our redemption.
- This is what Paul loved to preach, this was the heartbeat of his soul.
 - And so he says to the Corinthians Church, "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, (15:3)
 - And again in 1 Cor. 2:2, for I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.
- This is what Paul meant by "the cross."

2) WHAT IS THE DOCTRINE OF "THE CROSS?"

- In the cross Paul saw first the vindication of divine justice, the justice of an holy God.
- On the cross is seen most clearly the justice and vindication of God. Here God is just in forgiving our sin.
 - **Rom. 3:25, 26**
- It was more important that God the Son, Jesus should suffer and die upon the cross for our sinfulness and rebellion to the law of God than sin or rebellion should go unpunished or lightly repaid.
- God did not lessen the penalty or the pain one ounce for sin, but laid it all, the complete and total penalty and judgement of sin upon Christ. Sin is not a light thing...
- At the cross we see the doctrine of the atonement.
 - The reconciliation of God and humankind through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ.
- That the Lord Jesus Christ was made sin for us. (2 Cor. 5:21)
- Now once in the end of the age He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. (Heb. 9:26)
- On the cross He was once offered to bear the sins of many. (Heb. 9:28)
- There God set Him forth to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 Jn. 4:10)
- Here we see the reality of, "behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world. (Jn. 1:29)
- Here Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law being made a curse for us, for it is written, "cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree. (Gl. 3:13)
- Here is the Just dying for the unjust that He might bring us to God. (1Pt. 3:18)

- Here is the reality of the scripture, "as Moses lifted up the serpent, even so must the Son of man be lifted up that whosoever believes should not perish but live." (Jn.3:14)
- At the cross a real transaction of the substitutionary sacrifice for human guilt through the death of our great Substitute took place.
- At the cross the love of God is displayed, for while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)
- The cross is the removal of all our guilt. At the cross Christ made an end to our sin.
 - He that believes in Jesus is justified from all things from which he could not be justified by the law. (Acts. 13:39)

3) WHY DID PAUL BOAST IN THE CROSS?

- Paul was a master of the art of thinking and he surveyed the whole subject with his keen eagle mind's eye. He knew what he had to do and what he did he counted the cost. Paul's lone glorying, boasting would be in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Paul in his flesh could have had much to boast in.
 - His sufferings for Christ and the church. He was a living martyr.
 - 2 Cor. 11
- He could have boasted in his knowledge, education, training, visions and revelations:
 - 2 Cor. 12.
- He could have boasted in his certain reward. (2 Tim. 4)
- He does not here say he gloried or boasted in the incarnation, though I am sure he did,
- He does not say he boasted in Christ's perfect holy and blameless life, though I am sure he did.
- He does not here say he gloried in the resurrection.
- Nor the ascension, nor Christ's second coming with the last trump, a great roar with innumerable hosts and the shout of the arch angel.
- But here the great apostle selects beyond all the others this center of Christianity, the cross.
- His boasting was in the cross of Christ. Not just Christ, but the cross of Christ. The ugly, horrific cruel despicable cross.
- It was here at the cross Paul found real peace and love.
 - Rom. 5:1, Therefore, having been justified by faith, [a]we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
 - Gal. 2:20b Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
- The cross the hinge point of 2 eternities. Of the past decrees of the grace of God and the future glories of the grace of God.

4) WHAT DOES PAUL MEAN WHEN SAYING THE WORLD IS CRUCIFIED TO HIM?

- Paul's world was all things Hebrew.
- His Jewish heritage, his claim to its religion, laws, celebrations.
- Being a Jew was everything to Paul/Saul.
- By excelling in his religion was his only hope of righteousness.
- He excelled in it above his contemporaries in labors as well as zeal.
 - Acts. 7:58, 9:1, 2, 31
 - Gal. 1:13, 14.
 - Phil. 3:4-6
- He strove like no other in all things Jewish, yet without gaining peace.
- To Paul all hope of righteousness was through the law and religion.
- The more zeal he gave the more empty he became. Driven to find peace but only finding conviction and guilt.
 - Phil. 3:7-9,
 - Gal. 2:21
- All world religions strive to find salvation, peace through human/their own efforts.
- Paul having received the revelation from God that a man is only justified by faith in the crucified savior painfully realized that his religion became an accursed thing, for to be crucified is to be cursed.
 - Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree"),

CONCLUSION:

- What is my world? My boasting?
 - Comfort, family, children, career, fame, notoriety, wealth, power, health, self.
- A person is known by that which he exults or boast in.
 - Prov. 27:21, the crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but people are tested by their praise. (NIV)
- What is God crucifying in my life?
- Where would we be without the cross?
- God's plan of redemption and peace.