

“THE GLORY OF THE CROSS”

Text: Galatians 6:11-18

Subject: How The Cross of Jesus Affects Your Daily Living

Introduction

1. Paul is now finishing his letter to the Galatians.
2. His audience was converted under his preaching.
3. But now, false teachers had entered the ranks.
4. The church was being tempted to lose its power and witness to the world.

Question: What was Paul facing head on?

Answer: The false teachers were teaching...

#1. That circumcision was necessary for salvation (and)

#2. To be a true Christian, you must go back under the old Jewish law (a law of rites, ceremonies and rituals).

Question: Why did Paul write verse 14; “*But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ*”?

Answer: Because carnal ministers and false teachers were glorifying in something else.

Three Carnal Motives Are Exposed

1. (v. 12) “*As many as desire to make a fair show in the flesh.*”
2. (v. 12) “*Lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.*”
3. (v. 13) “*That they may glory in your flesh.*”

Question: What were the three carnal motives addressed?

Answer: Three things to stay clear of:

Motive #1: was to gain fleshly approval instead of God’s approval:

(v. 12) “*As many as desire to make a fair show in the flesh.*” (Which means)

- ◆ False ministers sought a good showing.
- ◆ They sought worldly popularity and acceptance.
- ◆ These teachers, preachers and ministers had the goal (or motive) to have people love them more than God and the truth.

Motive #2: was to put pleasure before commitment:

(v. 12) “*Lest they should suffer persecution from the cross of Christ* (Means)

- ◆ Some ministers sought to escape all persecution.
- ◆ It was unpopular in the ministry to preach that Jesus alone was the way to the Father.
- ◆ The preachers of law (without grace) persecuted the preachers of the cross as the way of grace.
- ◆ Thus, many took the easy way out to avoid all persecution. (It was compromise the truth for the easy way out.)

Motive #3: was to put on a good show:

(v. 13) “*But desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh.*” (Which means)

- ◆ The false ministers were comparing and competing.
- ◆ They were wanting to put on a good show.

- ◆ They wanted to circumcise many so they could boast in their numbers. (How many are we running was foremost in their thinking).
- ◆ They desired recognition and applause more than the maturity of the people.
- ◆ Appearance and looking good before man was first in their thinking.

Three Carnal Motives Exposed

- #1. Seeking man's approval before God's approval.
- #2. Seeking pleasure before commitment to truth.
- #3. Seeking recognition more than walking in the fear of the Lord.

(Image, ego, success, reputation, etc. all got in the way of pleasing God)

But God Has A Better Way

(And gives us the answer to a most important question)

Question: What does it mean to glory in the cross? (Verse 14)

Answer: It means something that liberates in power:

- #1. It means the cross is the only boast of a true minister or servant of Jesus in his church.
- #2. It means the cross is my only approach to a Holy God.
- #3. It means the cross is the only thing I can ever brag about.
- #4. It means the cross is the only power to change us from the inside out.

Question: Why is the cross of Jesus the only truth we can boast in?

Glory Secrets In The Cross

I. The Cross Has Power To Crucify (V. 14)

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of Jesus, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."

Question: What does the Scripture mean here, that the cross has power to crucify the world unto me and me unto the world?

Answer: It means something liberating:

- ◆ The cross has the power to crucify the world's power over me.
- ◆ The cross has the power to crucify my old carnal nature (that is bent on living for earthly approval instead of God's approval).
- ◆ The cross has the power to harness and lasso and constrain and restrict every desire contrary to Jesus.

In Other Words

- ◆ Faith in the cross of Jesus releases God's power to pour out grace and give us power over sin!

II. The Cross Has Power To Create (V. 15)

"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor un-circumcision, but a new creature".

Question: What is a "New creature"?

Answer: It is what a person is who was saved at the cross.

“In Christ Jesus a New Creature” means:

- #1. The cross has power to create a new heart.
- #2. The cross has power to give a repentative sinner a brand new spirit.
- #3. The cross has power to recreate a new nature in someone.
- #4. The cross has power to release the peace of God within your life.
- #5. The cross has power to rule your actions and decisions – that will result in the fruit of peace (instead of turmoil).

III. The Cross Has Power To Calm (v. 16)

“And as many as walk according to this rule; peace be on them.”

Question: What is this peace upon you?

Answer: It is a peace and calm based on the mercy of God.

- #1. The cross has power to give you peace with God through the sacrifice upon it.
- #2. The cross has power to clear your conscience, remove all guilt and give you assurance of forgiveness.
- #3. The cross has power to release the peace of God within your life.
- #4. The cross has power to rule your actions and decisions – that will result in the fruit of peace (instead of turmoil).

IV. The Cross Has Power To Comfort (v. 17)

“From henceforth let no man trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.”

Question: What is Paul testifying of here?

Answer: That the cross has power to comfort him and sustain him (in the midst of any scars, pain, hurt, suffering or injustice)

- ◆ Paul isn’t complaining about his scars,
- ◆ Instead, he is rejoicing that the cross is enough to motivate and encourage him.

In Other Words

- ◆ He receives comfort from looking at Jesus on Calvary.
- ◆ He receives comfort when remembering the price paid for his salvation.
- ◆ He receives comfort (instead of bitterness and complaining).

Charles Wesley said it well:

“And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior’s blood?
Died He for me who caused His pain? For me, whom Him to death pursued.
Amazing love, how can it be, that thou, my God **should die for me!**”

Elton Roth said it well:

“I love the Christ who died on Calvary, for **He washed my sins away**,
He put within my heart a melody, and I know it’s there to stay,
In my heart there rings a melody, there rings a melody with Heaven’s harmony,
There rings a melody of love.

Fanny Crosby said it well:

“To God be the glory great things He hath done, so loved He the world
that He gave us His Son, who yielded His life **an atonement for sin**,

and opened the life gate that all may go in.”

Fanny Crosby said it well again:

“Praise Him, praise Him, Jesus our blessed redeemer, for our sins
He suffered and bled and died. He, our rock, our hope of eternal salvation,
hail Him, hail Him, Jesus the crucified. Sound His praises,
Jesus who bore our sorrows, love unbounded, wonderful, deep and strong.”

Frederick Whitfield said it well:

“It tells me of a Savior’s love, **who died to set me free.** It tells me of His precious blood, the sinner’s perfect plea. Oh how I love Jesus, oh how I love Jesus, oh how I love Jesus, because He first loved me.”

Matthew Bridges said it well:

“Crown Him the Lord of love, behold His hands and side, rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified. All hail, redeemer, hail! **For thou hast died for me,** Thy praise shall never, never fail, throughout eternity!”

Edward Perronet said it well:

“Ye chosen seed of Israel’s race, ye ransomed from the fall, **hail Him who saves you by His grace,** and crown Him Lord of all!”

Margaret Harris said it well:

“I came to Jesus weary worn and sad, **He took my sins away, he took my sins away,** and now His love has made my heart so glad, he took my sins away!”

William Featherston said it well:

“I love thee because, thou has first loved me, **and purchased my pardon on Calvary’s tree,** I love thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow, if ever I loved thee, my Jesus is now.”

William Clark said it well:

“Redeemer, Savior, friend of man, once ruined by the fall, Thou has devised salvations plan, **for Thou hast died for all,** blessed be the name, blessed be the name, blessed be the name of the Lord.”

Fanny Crosby said it well:

“Jesus keep me near the cross, there a precious fountain, **free to all a healing stream, flows from Calvary’s mountain.** In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever.”

Isaac Watts said it well:

“Alas and did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die? **Would He devote that sacred head, for such a worm as I,** at the cross, at the cross, where I first saw the light, and the burden of my heart rolled away.

George Bernard said it well:

“In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, a wondrous beauty I see, for twas on that old cross **Jesus suffered and died,** to pardon and sanctify me.”

Elisha Hoffman said it well:

“I am so wondrously saved from sin, Jesus so sweetly abides within, **there at the cross where he took me in,** glory to His Name.”

F.A. Graves said it well:

“He was **nailed to the cross for me**, He was **nailed to the cross for me**, on the cross **crucified**, for me He died, He was nailed to the cross for me.”

Jennie Hussey said it well:

“Lest I forget **Gethsemane**, lest I forget Thine **agony**, lest I forget Thy love for me, lead me to Calvary.”

Mrs. Walter Taylor said it well:

“Calvary covers it all, Calvary covers it all, my past with its sin and stain, my guilt and despair, **Jesus took on Him there**, and Calvary covers it all.”

William Cowper said it well:

“There is a fountain filled with blood, **drawn from Immanuel’s veins**, and sinners plunged beneath that flood loose all their guilty stains.”

Lidie Edmunds said it well:

“From that **dear cross where Jesus died**, Calvary’s stream is flowing, **from bleeding hands and feet and side**, Calvary’s stream is flowing.”

G.T. Hawyood said it well:

“I see a **crimson stream of blood**, it flows from Calvary. Its waves which reach the throne of God, are sweeping over me.”

Elvina Hall said it well:

“Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe, sin had left a crimson stain, **He washed it white as snow.**”

F.M. Graham said it well:

“Long ago, long ago, yes the old account was settled long ago, and the records clear today, for **He washed my sins away**, when the old account was settled long ago.”

Louisa Stead said it well:

“O how sweet to trust in Jesus, just to trust **His cleansing blood**, just in simple faith to plunge me, neath the healing, cleansing flood.”

Horatio Spafford said it well:

“My sin oh the bliss of this glorious thought, my sin not in part but the whole, is **nailed to the cross and I bear it no more**, praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul.”

Question: What are the hymn writers saying?

Answer: They are saying what Paul said.

“My only boasting will be in the cross.” (It is grace plus zero that lets me in.)

AMEN
Bill Kirk