

Glorying in the Cross of Christ

If there was a key verse to the book of Galatians it would be:

Gal.2.16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

One of the most significant verses of all time just might be:

Ga 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.

There is nothing that any man can glory in but this, the cross of Jesus Christ. The best of preachers, the best of teachers, the greatest evangelists, the greatest doctors, athletes, musicians, singers, have nothing to boast of before men and God. Why? Because God gave them these things. It was all a gift. Some might apply themselves to the use of their gifts, some might waste them, but God gave it to them nonetheless. It was of His own sovereign will and good pleasure. Where is boasting?

Ro.3.27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. (Faith negates boasting, glorying in personal accomplishments before the Lord and men.)

Boast? Only in Christ's cross. Everything, all human history from the creation to the end of creation as it now is, is centered on the cross of Christ. These false teachers against which Paul contended set at nought, they rejected Christ's cross.

What is it about the cross that unregenerate men reject? Grace. The grace of salvation; a salvation that is unmeritable. They are repulsed by it. It must be that man must do something, anything.

But the children of God are drawn to the cross. Why? Because, by the free grace of God they know that they had nothing, are still nothing, and will always be nothing. They will always be accepted with God based upon the cross of Christ. The cross represents the full work which Jesus Christ wrought in His death in the

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sinner's place. He worked a full work. He didn't do a partial work. He did it all. As the song, 'Jesus Paid It All.'

2Co 5:21 For he (God) hath made him (Christ) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

1Pe 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit ...

Eph 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Joh 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Will you think with me about this? Our existence, all of human life is nothing if not for the cross of Jesus Christ. If it weren't for the fact that God was going to send His Son into the world to save sinners by way of the cross nothing that was created would have been created. There is no reason for the foreknowledge of God, His predestination, His calling, His justification, and glorification if there is no cross. Everything becomes nothing apart from the cross of Christ. It is the cross that gives meaning to everything that is in heaven and on earth, and for all eternity. It is Christ's cross that has given us a hope that goes beyond this veil of tears and beyond the grave.

Listen closely to me, hardship, difficulty, sorrow and crying is coming to a soul near you and me. One day it is coming to my doorstep and to yours. We aren't promised health, wealth and good living. We aren't promised a job and freedom to move about. We aren't promised to grow up in a republic, have any parents that will love and care for us, any schooling, a blessed childhood, become a mother or father, have a family, get a good-paying job, have a car or two, live in a nice neighborhood, maybe buy a house, have a nice lawn, send our children to good schools, see them grown up without a care in the world into adults, become grandparents, and on and on and on. We aren't promised any of this. If we have these it is all *icing on the cake*, but we aren't promised any of this. Whether we have little or much it really is nothing if it weren't for the cross of Christ.

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Everything will slip through our fingers. We will let loose of everything one day. They did little to nothing for us. I think through the accumulation of things we sometimes become complacent and unthankful. To be honest sometimes, I think we can all agree that we are often distracted from the single-most important issue of life: *living for Christ*. These were to be used, not abused.

1Co 7:31 And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.

1Ti 6:7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. (the only time this statement is found in the Bible ... it is certain.)

What is anything apart from the consideration of the cross of Christ? If we do not have before us at all times the great love of God for us through Christ's cross we've missed the reason for being here altogether. Our only boast is the cross of Jesus Christ. It was Paul's and it is to be mine. I've absolutely nothing, I am nothing, everything is nothing is not for the cross of Christ. One day every child of God of all of the ages past to the end of time will glorify God by the cross of Christ. What a day that will be.

Re 5:12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

It is through the cross of Jesus Christ that we have hope in God. By it we have a hope that the eye of faith sees even beyond the grave.

Job 25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.

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The world sees no merit in the cross, but Christ has brought to all of the children of God what all the money and personal merit could never have accomplished: eternal life in His blessed presence.

Ga 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.

The world for Christ's sake no longer has a hold on me, and I on the world. It shall all pass away, with we, because of Him shall live forever in His presence.