

I. Introduction – the importance of the conclusion. v. 11

- A. Paul writes in large letters with his own hand. v. 11 1 Co. 16:31-22 Col. 4:18
2 Th. 3:17 Phm. 1:19
- B. Paul reviews the major themes of his epistle.

II. The false teachers have bad motives – they desire to boast about themselves. v. 12-13

- A. They are cowards. v. 12
 - 1. By compelling the Gentiles to be circumcised they appear to be loyal to the Law and can avoid the animosity of the Jews. 4:29 5:11 Acts 15:1,5 13:45,50 21:27f
 - 2. Paul was persecuted because he refused to preach circumcision. 5:11 6:17
- B. They are hypocrites. v. 13a Isa. 29:13 Mark 7:5-8 Acts 7:53
 - 1. They themselves don't keep the Law under which they wish to place others in bondage. v. 13a Acts 15:10 Rom. 2:21-24
 - 2. They are like the Pharisees against whom Jesus preached. Mt. 23:1-7,15
- C. They are proud. v. 13b
 - 1. They are not seeking your welfare, but bragging rights for themselves.
 - 2. They want to boast about how many Gentiles they can bring under the Law through circumcision.
- D. Such wolves continue to plague Christ's flock. John 10:12,11 Acts 20:28ff
 - 1. Cowardice – Teachers compromise the truth in order to avoid trouble. The cross is still offensive. 2:16 3:13 1 Co. 1:18ff John 14:6 Acts 4:12
 - 2. Hypocrisy – Teachers who live double lives. Mt. 23:23-33
 - 3. Pride – Teachers who want human adulation. 3 Jo. 1:9-10 Mt. 23:6-12
- E. What if some of our spiritual heroes prove to be hypocrites? Phil. 1:15-18

III. Paul's is motivated by the cross – something worth boasting about. v. 14-15

- A. Paul's sole boast is in the cross of Christ. v. 14a 2:20
 - 1. Paul used to be self-righteous and proud like the false teachers, but he gave all that up to have Christ. Phil. 3:4-11
 - 2. Paul now glories in the very thing that men utterly despise. 1 Co. 1:18,22-23
 - 3. What is so glorious about the cross of Christ? 2:16 Rom. 3:25 5:1 8:1 11:33-36 1 Co. 1:18ff
 - 4. Has what happened to Paul happened to you? Jer. 9:23f
- B. Through the cross I am divorced from the world. v. 14b
 - 1. The world is crucified to me – I am done with the world. 2:20 5:24 1 Jo. 2:15-17 Ro. 12:2 Mt. 6:19-21 Phil. 3:8
 - 2. I am crucified to the world – the world is done with me. 6:17 5:11
 - 3. I am now of the new creation – the world to come. 1:4
- C. Embracing the cross changes everything – I am a new creature in a new age. v. 15
 - 1. After the cross, circumcision, which belonged to the old order, doesn't matter. v. 15a 3:28-29 Ro. 2:28-29 Phil. 3:7-8
 - 2. All that matters is that you are of the new creation which was inaugurated by the completion of Jesus' work. 1:4 5:16 2 Co. 5:17 Ro. 6:4 1 Co. 15:22 7:19

3. This new creation is a supernatural divine work, not a fleshly work. John 3:3
4. The new age is both already present and not yet completely fulfilled. 1:4
2 Co. 5:17 Isa. 65:17 66:22 Rev. 21:1,5 Rom. 8:18ff 2 Pe. 3:13
5. Those who are part of the new creation will be far more fruitful in obedience to the true meaning of God's Law of love than the legalists. 5:6,14 6:2,10 1 Co. 7:19

D. We continue to boast only in the cross.

1. The errors which affected the churches in Galatia continue to plague the churches throughout the centuries.
2. Many focus upon outward religious ordinances, rather than inward spiritual transformation. 3:3 Acts 15:1,5 Isa. 29:13 Mark 7:6-8
3. Many rely upon the law works man does instead of the work God has done on the cross. 2:16 3:13,24

E. How has the cross transformed you?

1. Have you turned from your fleshly works to trust solely in Christ's cross work for your justification before God?
2. Have you decisively turned your back on the world and taken up your cross to follow Christ? Ro. 12:2 Mark 8:34ff 2 Ti. 3:12 Jo. 16:33
3. Have you experienced the world's rejection because of the cross? 1 Co. 1:18,23 Mt. 5:10-12 John 15:18-20 1 Co. 4:10

IV. Concluding applications: In what do you boast?

Questions

1. How could teachers be tempted by sinful motives such as fear of men and pride?
How are you influenced by these motives?
2. How should we look upon teachers who are hypocrites?
3. What is the cross to those who rely upon their own works?
4. Why is the cross so precious to Paul?
5. What does it mean to boast in the cross?
6. What does it mean to crucify the world?
7. What happens to you when you are crucified to the world?
8. What is the new creation to which Paul refers?
Why does it matter so much?
9. What is the cross to you?
10. How has the cross of Christ changed your relationship to the world?
What still need to change?