

**BOOK OF GALATIANS**  
**WHERE IS YOUR BOASTING?**  
**GALATIANS 6:11-18**

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**Introduction**

1. In this epistle to the Churches of Galatia, we have seen...
  - a. The Apostle Paul has **defended his Apostleship** in Chapters 1-2!
  - b. He has also **argued very strongly that justification is by faith in Christ alone, apart from the works of the law and flesh** in Chapters 3-4!
  - c. Then, we have seen how he has **exhorted Believers to use their liberty to sow to the Spirit instead of the flesh** in chapters 5-6!

Today we come to the conclusion of this epistle!

2. As Paul concludes his epistle, he intermingles some personal remarks with his final admonitions to Believers:
  - a. **We note his reference to the size of his letters! (6:11)**
    - 1) Some take to refer to his actual handwriting.
    - 2) Others think it refers the length of the epistle.
  - b. **But of particular interest is the contrast that Paul makes in verses 11-16.**
    - 1) **He makes a contrast between these Judaizers and himself!**

Remember that the Judaizers were false teachers who wanted to add the works of the law (especially the ritual of circumcision) as a requirement of salvation.
    - 2) **Also, Paul here shows a great contrast in what they gloried in and what he was glorying in!**

**I. THE JUDAIZERS WERE BOASTING IN A SHOW OF THEIR FLESH BY CONSTRAINING GENTILE BELIEVERS TO BE CIRCUMCISED! (Vs 12-13)**

- A. **Their Motive Was To Gain Approval Of Their Peers To Avoid Persecution For The Cross Of Christ! (Vs 12)**  
i.e. They sought the favor of men over the favor of God!

Many of the earliest ministers of the Gospel were Jewish priests who saw and were convinced that Jesus Christ is the Messiah! However, **many of these accepted Him only as an ADDITION to the law!**

These believed and proclaimed that **Jesus Christ came primarily to show how God wants us to live**; therefore, He only added to the law.

They believed that keeping the law was important in approaching God. So they taught that people were to **approach God through both the law and Jesus Christ.**

**Those who proclaimed salvation through Christ alone (e.g. Paul) were persecuted through ridicule, mockery, abuse, and rejection.** They chased and hounded Paul from town to town trying to convert his converts to their way of thinking!

Paul's preaching of salvation through faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ alone was thought to be destroying both the law and Judaism! So, they persecuted Paul and the other ministers of the cross! As a result, it took real courage to stand up and proclaim the truth!

Many were choosing the easy way out, going along with erroneous doctrine in order to avoid persecution.

So, *Their Motive Was To Gain Approval Of Their Peers To Avoid Persecution For The Cross Of Christ...*

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**B. Their Motive Was To Boast In The Flesh Of The Gentiles! (Vs 13b)**

They sought to boast in the number of Gentiles that they had convinced to be circumcised.

Their interest was not so much in teaching people to obey the Lord and the law as it was in just adding to their numbers to gain approval and acceptance of their own kind and to contradict the ministry of Paul!

**C. But Notice Their Inconsistency! (Vs 13a)**

These who stressed circumcision so much, themselves fell woefully short when it came to keeping the rest of the Law!

That is because the Law cannot be kept by sinful flesh! That's why Jesus Christ, the perfect sinless, Son of God came to fulfill the Law on our behalf! And through our faith in His finished work, His obedience became our obedience!

*Colossians 2:13-15* 13 *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*

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

*Romans 10:4* *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.*

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**II. PAUL WAS BOASTING IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST! (Vs 14) (Cf. *Philippians 3:3-9*)**

Paul tells us in Scripture of some things he might have been tempted to glory in:

**A. Paul Might Have Gloried In His Ancestry Or His Heritage! (*Philippians 3:5a - Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, and Hebrew of the Hebrews*)**

**B. Paul Might Have Gloried In His Religious Background And Education!**

*Philippians 3:5b* – “...as touching the law, a Pharisee.”

*Acts 22:3* *I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.*

**C. Paul Might Have Gloried In His Religious Practices!**  
*Philippians 3:6* *Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*

**D. But Paul Did Not Glory In Any Of These Things Or Anything Else Other Than The Cross Of Jesus! (*Philippians 3:7-9*)**

**1. To Many Of The Jews (Including These Judaizers) The Cross Of Christ Was A Stumblingblock!**

*1 Corinthians 1:23* *But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock,...*

They stumbled at the thought that salvation was so simple as to believe on this One was obviously cursed!

*Galatians 3:13* *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*

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2. **To The Gentiles The Cross Of Christ Was Foolishness!**  
*1 Corinthians 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;*
3. **But To Paul And Every Other Believer The Cross Of Christ Is The Power Of God Unto Salvation!**  
*1 Corinthians 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.*  
  
*1 Corinthians 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*  
  
*Romans 1:16-17 17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*
4. **And So Paul Made It The Focus Of His Ministry!**  
*1 Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*
5. **Paul Realized The Truth Of His Having Been Crucified With Christ! (Vs. 14b)**  
In Christ he says he had been crucified to the world!  
Of which he wrote about earlier in this epistle!  
  
*Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

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6. **This Changed His Priorities In Life. (Vs. 15-18)**
  - a. Circumcision, which had once been so important to him, had become irrelevant after coming to Christ!
  - b. It wasn't about being a Jew or being in Judaism!
  - c. **What mattered to him now was the new creation he was in Christ!**  
*2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*
7. **As Many As Walk According To This Rule (Being A New Creature) Have Peace And Mercy! (Vs 16)**  
The phrase "*and upon the Israel of God*" refers to Jews who are Jews both by birth and by the new birth and to the believing Gentiles on whom the blessing of Abraham has come through their faith in Jesus!
8. **Paul's Desire For This Trouble To Be Over! (Vs 17)**  
Paul has poured out his heart in this letter!  
Paul has shown the truth conclusively in this letter!  
It was time for it to be over!  
  
Circumcision was the mark these false teachers were looking for. Paul had that, but the greater marks in his body were those he bore because of the Lord Jesus and his dedication to the pure Gospel of Christ!
9. **In Closing, He Commends To Them God's Grace Because He Has Learned That God's Grace Is Always Sufficient! (Vs 18)**

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**Conclusion**

What are the things you boast in?

Many in this world boast of other things such as their own wisdom, their own strength, or their own wealth! It is because they have failed to see the true riches in Christ Jesus and His cross which is the only thing worthy of glory!

As believers, our boast should be in Christ and His Gospel! Is it?