

THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH “Boast Only in the Cross”

Galatians 6:14 (NKJV)

14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

The Book of Galatians is a defense of the Gospel of Grace, refuting those who were saying that Jesus is not sufficient. These false teachers were saying that in **addition** to faith in Jesus, a person must also keep the Mosaic law for salvation and/or sanctification. Right out of the blocks, Paul defines the true Gospel as “*the grace of Christ*” (Gal. 1:6). In fact, he emphasizes it so strongly as to repeatedly call for a curse on anyone who would dare to preach any other gospel (cf. Gal. 1:8-9).

The bad news is our sin problem! Personal sin is all our own doing. We are responsible for our sin and the penalty for sin is DEATH (cf. Rom. 3:23, 6:23). The word “gospel” means “good news”. This is all Christ's DOING. It's a matter of His unmerited favor in dying for all our sins. We can't earn it and we don't deserve it. It is PURELY A MATTER OF GRACE (cf. 2 Cor. 8:9).

To add ANYTHING to the finished work of Christ is to reject grace. Jesus paid it all! All to Him we owe! Jesus alone suffered and died for sin on the cross. There was no one helping Him!

To now come along and think that any religious ritual or anything we can do in the flesh somehow makes a contribution to our salvation is a blasphemous insult to the CROSS WORK of our Lord Jesus Christ. It doesn't get any more serious than this. The Gospel is that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again in fulfillment of the OT Scriptures (cf. 1 Cor. 15:1-4). All we have to do is BELIEVE this Gospel.

Romans 1:16 (NKJV)

16 For I am not ashamed of the **gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes**, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

The Judaizers were boasting in circumcision, which they supposed set them apart for God (cf. Gal. 6:12-13). Prior to his conversion, Paul had

many credentials which may have been considered grounds in which to boast. But when he saw the truth of Christ, his testimony is that he counted everything (all his own credentials) as a TOTAL LOSS.

Paul did this so that he might gain Christ and be found in Him, NOT having his own righteousness, but rather the righteousness which is from God on the basis of faith alone in Christ alone (cf. Phil. 3:4-9).

When we get to heaven we won't say to Jesus: "We did it!" NO! All the glory goes to Him for our salvation. In heaven, the throngs shout, "Worthy is the Lamb" (cf. Rev. 5:11-12). The finished work of Christ on the cross is the only basis for boasting. It's nothing that we have done (including baptism, rituals, good works, etc.)! Jesus did it ALL!

The CROSS of Christ in Galatians 6:14 is linked with the PERSON of Christ as seen in the phraseology of "our Lord Jesus Christ". Who He is, is what makes His life so valuable, so valuable that He is a worthy sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

This cross is the dividing point between all true believers and the world. Because of the cross, we have gone our separate ways. True believers glory in the cross alone. Christ and His FINISHED work on the cross is everything to us! In contrast, the world rejects the cross which OFFENDS all self- or works- righteousness. Which side of the cross are you on?

1 Corinthians 2:2 (NKJV)

2 For I determined not to know anything among you except **Jesus Christ** and **Him crucified**.

Q: What can wash away my sin? A: Nothing but the blood of Jesus!