

11
GLORYING IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST
Gal. 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." Greek--"But for me may it not be to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ through whom to me the world has been crucified and I to the world."

Introduction

1. What is implied in the idea of glorying in an object
 - (1) That we have a sincere regard, high esteem and real affection for it
 - (2) That we are deeply interested in it
 - (3) That the object affords us joy and consolation

Thus it is that glorying is one of the most characteristic propensities of our nature. This characteristic is seen in every class of society and in every portion of the human race. From the highest dignitary to the lowest beggar, from the enlightened and refined citizen to the savage, all discover something in which they think they can glory. If it is said that one glories in his good name, riches or friends it is meant that he sets a great value upon them. As a consequence he thinks and talks continually about them and nothing sooner excites his indignation than to hear them undervalued or dispraised. Every man has an object of glory. The avaricious glory in wealth; the vain in distinction; the ambitious in power; the self-righteous in virtue; the philosophical in wisdom; and the Christian in his Lord.

2. Who used the language of this text?

The Apostle Paul as he was inspired by the Spirit. He was the champion of the Cross and one of the most outstanding men of God in all history. There was no truer follower of Christ than Paul.

3. What he could have yet would not glory in

(1) Himself--that is in his:--

- a. Distinguished ancestry
- b. Polished education
- c. Moral life
- d. Many virtues
- e. Self-righteousness
- f. Great intellectual qualifications
- g. Genius
- h. Eminent gifts
- i. High ecclesiastical position
- j. Singular and remarkable conversion
- k. Extraordinary call to the apostleship
- l. Apostolic authority
- m. Usefulness as a minister in working for Christ
- n. Christian achievements and especially as a writer
- o. Attainment of great spiritual power
- p. Brave endurance of persecution

*Worldly wisdom
"honor"*

Privileges as a Jew

(2) Christ----that is in His:----

- a. Incarnation
- b. Life
- c. Power
- d. Holiness
- e. Miracles
- f. Teachings
- g. Kingdom

- h. Resurrection
- i. Ascension
- j. Intercession
- k. Second Coming

But instead of looking upon any of these things as an object in which he felt that he should glory he turns to the Cross of Calvary as such an object for he viewed it as----

1. A display of the Divine character and glory
2. An expression of the depth of sin
It describes the iniquity, diabolism and awful meaning of sin
3. An exemplification of the highest love. *John 3:16*
4. God's only method of saving a lost world. *On two arms of cross God hung salvation of world.*
5. The great means of transforming lives
6. The only message the Lord gives the ministry
7. The sign of universal and eternal triumph. *Blood can cleanse & conquer any sin*
8. A guarantee of heaven to all true believers
9. God's call to His service

Paul's attitude toward the cross was such that it was as if he had said, "Call me mad-man, despise me, mock me, seize me by the hand of violence, drag me to your dungeons, load me with chains, lead me to the stake if you will but still I will rejoice and glory in the Cross. Among friends or foes, in liberty or in bonds, in life and in death, I will glory in the cross of Christ for there He hangs on the accursed tree as the great Captain of my salvation fighting my battles and vanquishing my enemies. There on the Cross He is bruising the head of Satan, taking the sting from death, robbing the grave of victory, disarming hell of its terrors.

However, it seems to me that the three-fold reason why Paul gloried so in the Cross and why we should likewise glory in it as in nothing else is because of the---

1. Position of the Cross
2. Purpose of the Cross
3. Power of the Cross

Discussion-----

I. THE POSITION OF THE CROSS

1. It holds the central place in the Word of God
The Cross is to His Word what the sun is to the solar system and what the needle is to the compass.
2. It is the most prominent thing portrayed in the New Testament
It is so prominent that it displays Divine love, infinite mercy, resistless power, incomprehensible wisdom, inflexible justice and spotless purity.
3. It is the foundation stone of the Gospel
Paul in I Cor. 15:3-4 defines the Gospel in the following words, "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and that He was buried; and that He hath been raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."
4. It is the heart of the Christian message
We may roll the thunders of eloquence, dart the coruscations of genius, scatter the flowers of poetry, diffuse the light of science, enforce the ~~par~~cepts of morality from the pulpit; but if we do not make the Cross of Christ central in our preaching we have forgotten our errand and shall do little good.

II. THE PURPOSE OF THE CROSS

1. It was to meet the demands of a just law

His law could not be altered but had to be satisfied.

Man had violated or broken God's laws by sinning so man's sin had to be punished. Jesus on the Cross bore judgment for sin and made it possible for God to forgive sinners without destroying His laws.

2. It was to teach man his own wretchedness

The Cross destroys that deceiving glass which magnifies one in his own eyes. It uncovers man's sin in such a way that he realizes his hopelessness apart from the atonement which is made for him at Calvary.

3. It was to reveal the heart of love which was in God

The Cross is the best revelation of the heart of God that the world has ever witnessed.

A certain boy played truant from school for three days and his teacher came to see him and talk with his father about it. After the teacher left the father said he would punish the boy by making him stay in the attic for three days. The boy was sent to the attic but that night the parents would not and could not sleep with him there. The father said I will not go back on my word and lessen the punishment but I will go to the attic and spend the time with him. He went to the attic and shared the punishment with the boy for the whole time. Likewise God would not set His law aside but went to the Cross and shared the punishment of man's sin with him.

4. It was to procure the greatest possible blessings for man

These blessings include reconciliation with God, pardon, peace, power, joy, victory over the world, eternal life and the glories of heaven.

III. THE POWER OF THE CROSS

1. It has the power to convict men of their need

It so displays the Divine character and reveals the Divine perfection that an unsaved man cannot see the truth and light of these things and not automatically see his wretchedness and lost condition and cry out for mercy and forgiveness.

Then if a saved man who is unconsecrated gets a true view of these things he will exclaim,

"Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all."

2. It has the power to draw those thus convicted to come in contrition and confess Christ as Saviour, Lord and Master. "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth will draw all men unto myself. But this He said, signifying by what manner of death he should die."
John 12:32-33

3. It has the power to save those who have been drawn to Him.

It can save from the penalty of sin when one is converted, from the power of sin in daily life and from the presence of sin at the close of the earthly life. It is powerful enough to save instantaneously, completely and eternally.

4. It has the power to enable one to live a true moral, spiritual, consecrated, Christian life in which he gets victory after he has accepted Christ as Saviour and confessed Him as Lord. The cross supplies the believer with the power of a new motive which is love and the power of a new life which is a life lived in the Spirit.

CONCLUSION

Thus it can be readily seen that in light of the Position, Purpose, and Power of the Cross it is worthy of the glorying of every saved soul because of:----

1. The love of Him who suffered there

2. The purity and holiness of His character
 3. The pardon there procured for the guilty
 4. The possibility of reconciliation to God by means of it
 5. The fact that it procures admission into heaven for all the saved
- Finally, I would urge that each of us glory in the cross of Christ because it is the:---

1. Measure of man's guilt-----Acts 3:13-15
2. Manifestation of God's love--Rom. 5:6-8
3. Means of salvation-----John 3:14-16
4. Mark of separation-----Gal. 6:14
5. Motive to service-----II Cor. 5:14-15
6. Melody of heaven-----Rev. 5:8-10

For the sinner the only hope is to be found in the Cross
The Cross is all that is standing between him and hell
The Cross of Christ can save the very worst of sinners if they will only receive Him who paid the penalty for their sins on the cross.

IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST

In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'er-take me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross for-sake me:
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that thro' all time abide.

1. It supplies the only safe rule for faith and practice.
2. It demands courage in confession.
3. It secures grace for action.

Cross is object of glorying —

1. It is best revelation of heart of God. It reveals the love of God as nothing else does.
2. Love of Him who suffered there. It secures us of
3. Purity and wholeness of His character.
4. His dying to maintain law of God unallied.
5. The pardon there procured for the guilty.

Cal. 6.14
GLOFYING IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST

An old abbot, Rupertus, in his work "On the Divine Offices" says:--
"Let us adore the cross of Christ; for the cross is the guardian of faith, the firmament of hope, the soil of charity, the title of mercy, the argument of piety, the bond of grace, the standard of peace. Let us adore the cross which overthrows pride, extirpates envy, corrects sin, cancels punishment. The cross of Christ is the gate of heaven, the key of paradise, the overthrow of the devil, the creation of man, the comfort of our captivity, the price of freedom. The cross is the expectation of patriarchs, the promise of prophets, the triumph of kings, the dignity of priests. The cross confounds tyrants, bends the powerful, raises the afflicted, honours the poor. The cross is the expulsion of darkness, the infusion of light, the escape from death, the ship of life, the empire of salvation. Whatever step we make in advance toward God, whatever we acquire, whatever we hope for, is the fruit of adoring the cross. By the cross Christ draws all things to Himself; it is the kingdom of the Father, the sceptre of the Son, the seal of the Holy Ghost, the testament of the whole blessed Trinity."