

I Will Glory in the Cross

Galatians 6:14-16

As we begin to consider our text, we need to be aware that all was not well among the Galatian believers. They had allowed false teachers to enter among them and many were being led astray by their doctrine. Their focus was no longer on the Lord or serving Him. Paul desired that they regain the love and devotion they once had for the Lord.

The lives of Christians must be centered on Jesus and we should live in such a way that the world can see that we possess something unusual, something extraordinary, something that others do not have. In these verses Paul reveals that Jesus is the focus of his life. He desires nothing more than living for Christ and nothing less than pleasing Him.

As I considered these verses I wondered what the average Christian desires of life. What is it that you desire? Who or what is the priority of your existence? The longer I serve the Lord the more aware I become that apart from Him I am nothing. Before I met the Lord my life was void with no direction, no desire, and no joy. Jesus gave me hope and a reason for living. I now live in Christ the Lord.

If I have anything to rejoice in or boast of, it is in what I have in Jesus. Without Him I would still be lost in sin and destined for eternity in hell. As we examine the [attributes](#) each believer should possess, I want to preach on the thought: [I will Glory in the Cross](#). These verses reveal the life that believers ought to live. We have been given new life in Christ and I have no desire for the old ways of sin.

I. A Life of Recognition (14) – [But God forbid that I should glory](#). Paul reveals that in himself there is no reason for boasting. There was absolutely no goodness within him. I'm sure he remembered the man he used to be. He was a man who once sought to hinder the church and the work of God. It was the Lord who brought him out of the bondage of sin and placed him into the family of God.

- He was simply the recipient of God's loving favor. His life had been used of God in a mighty way since that day on the Damascus road, but it was God who had made him what he was. Paul recognized apart from the Lord he would not have been able to accomplish the things that he had. It was the Lord who gave him the ability to preach the gospel, to endure the hardships, and reach the world.
- We live in a day of pride. It seems as if everyone wants to be recognized for their accomplishments. Some have to be bragged on and encouraged if they are to continue serving the Lord. Man is a prideful creature, but none of us would be here today were it not for the Lord.

- I have nothing to glory in of myself. I was just a sinful beggar in need of salvation when the Lord came unto me. He has made me what I am today. If there is any reason for boasting in my life, it is only in the Lord and what He has done for me!
- This church has achieved what it has solely in the Lord. We have not prospered because of who we are or what we've done! I pray that we will see ourselves as nothing and Jesus as everything.

II. A Life of Identification (14) – [But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.](#) There were many in Paul's day that refused the cross and the sacrifice of Jesus. They rejected the idea of a suffering Savior. Many were still trying to keep the law and work their way into favor with God. For many the cross was a symbol of reproach and they refused to identify with it. Paul declared that the cross was the only reason of rejoicing he had.

- It was the cross that provided the means for salvation. It was the cross that gave him the opportunity to become a member of the family of God. The cross was the only reason for boasting that Paul had. He may have suffered persecution and rejection for embracing the cross, but Paul was not ashamed. He knew that it was the cross that men needed to see. It was the preaching of the cross that men needed to hear. [Rom.1:16 – 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.](#) 1 [Cor.2:2 – For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.](#)
- We must boldly stand and identify with the cross of Christ today. It is there our precious Lord gave His life so we might live. It was there redemption was secured for the sins of mankind. Without the cross we would not have hope today.
- The world is in desperate need of those who will identify with the cross, those who will glory in the Savior who bled and died for the sins of the world! It is Jesus that men need to see and learn of. They don't need to see us when they come unto the house of God. They don't need the gimmicks of modern religion. Men need Jesus. I am proud to identify and glory in the cross of salvation!

III. A Life of Separation (14) – [By whom the world is crucified unto me.](#) Paul had been set free from the bondage of sin. He was delivered from the cares of this life. The world had died out unto him and he now lived life anew in Christ. Paul was no longer found in the places of the past. The life that he had before had been forsaken for service unto the Lord. He had turned his back on the man that he used to be and began a new journey with the Lord.

- If we are to be what the Lord desires of us, the world must be crucified to us. We must abandon the old ways and seek the right path. It is impossible to live for God while continuing to live among the world. Many today seek to have it both ways. They want to enjoy the pleasures of the flesh and serve the Lord at the same time. This can never be; we cannot have it both ways!
- If we are to be fruitful in our walk with Christ, the world must be forsaken. There is nothing to look back to or to go back for. You will never achieve spiritual fullness seeking to remain among the world. Life lived for Jesus requires that the world and the desire it brings be crucified, or put to death. God has called us to come out from among the world and be a separated people. Jesus desires and deserves those who are determined to live for Him having forsaken the lusts of the world. Have you crucified the old ways?

IV. A Life of Suppression (14) – **By whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.** The old way had died out, but also the old man was now dead. The man that Paul used to be no longer existed. He died there on the Damascus road. Paul was a man just as we are. I'm sure there were days when the flesh rose up within him. There were days when he desired the old paths. In those times, Paul had to crucify the flesh. There were times when he had to suppress the lusts of the flesh. [Gal.5:24 – And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.](#) [Rom.6:6 – Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.](#)

- These bodies that we live in are our biggest hindrance. We often like to blame Satan and the world for our problems, but the truth is that we are our biggest hindrance. If we are to be all that we should be, we must learn to crucify the lusts of the flesh. We must learn to overcome the temptations of this life. We will never be able to do that without a close walk with the Lord. [1 Cor.10:13 – There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.](#)
- There is another aspect we must consider before we move on. Paul was crucified unto the world. He was no longer accepted of many who knew him before. The friends that he once knew had forsaken him. Living for the Lord will not bring you the favor of men. There will be those who will reject your walk with Christ. You may be labeled a fanatic or “too religious” by some.
- We cannot expect the world to embrace the life we live. They have never trusted Christ. They don't understand our desire to live for Him and refuse the lusts of the flesh. If you are determined to live for the Lord, you might as well expect some “friends” to abandon you! You might as well be ready for opposition.

V. A Life of Justification (15) – *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.* Once again Paul deals with the issue of circumcision. The Jews were teaching that circumcision was necessary to be acceptable unto the Lord. Paul reveals that the works of the flesh are not what obtains the favor of God.

- He had lived a life of service for the Lord. He had started many churches, preached many messages, and witnessed many souls come to Christ, but these accomplishments could not bring acceptance to the Lord. We are expected to live for God, but we are justified because of the blood of Christ. The penalty of sin is gone through Him. We could never do enough to merit salvation.
- I rejoice that my relationship with Jesus isn't dependent upon the works that I perform. I am justified in Christ because of the sacrifice He made. I have been made a new creature in Christ. It is more than a change of habits; it's a change of heart. It is more than a change of behavior; it is a change of being. *Eph.2:10 – For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*
- I am secure in the Lord because of His finished work on the cross of Calvary. When God looks upon me He sees the blood of His Son. I now stand righteous before Him. A life of works will keep you busy, but it will never bring salvation. I pray that you are trusting in the Lord's saving grace rather than the works that you have done!

VI. A Life of Jubilation (16) – *And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.* This had been a difficult letter for Paul to write. The churches in Galatia had wandered from the truth. Paul was concerned with their spiritual well being. There was much that troubled them and hindered their walk with the Lord.

- As he closes he gives a final reminder: those who know the Lord and live for Him can enjoy the peace He gives. The churches in Galatia may have faced adversity, but the God of grace was still on the throne. Even in their trials they were promised the peace of God.
- We live in a dark day. It seems as if the world around us becomes more sinful and rebellious with each passing day. The Lord is no longer desired or even tolerated in many places. The church is facing new attacks and persecutions even in America.
- It is often easy to focus on the problems and fail to remember that we serve a sovereign God who is still in control. The Lord is still on His throne with His almighty power. I have no way of knowing what we will face as these difficult days progress, but I have the peace of God within my heart. I have no doubt that He will keep those who belong to Him. Life may get difficult and hard to bear, but the children of God will make it safely home.

- When the cares of life bear heavy on your soul, just remember to Whom you belong. We are not forsaken in this life. The day will come when the Lord calls for His bride and we will meet Him in the air! We have been brought out of a life of sin, reconciled unto the Lord. We have a hope that this world knows nothing of. The world didn't give it to us and the world can't take it away. Lift up your head child of God. We are going to make it!

Conclusion: I pray these verses have challenged and encouraged you in your walk with the Lord. May we never forget that Jesus is the only source of hope we have. He alone is our reason to glory. Had it not been for His sacrifice we would all still be lost in sin.

Where is your desire today? Are you committed to living a life that pleases Him? Have you determined to live a separated and consecrated life, willing to identify with the Lord among the world? Maybe you have been troubled or discouraged and need to come and seek His help to carry on. You may not be able to glory in the cross of Christ because it holds no real significance for you. If you are unsaved, Jesus stands ready to save today! If you need to come, Jesus will help you with whatever need you may have.