

Galatians: Christ Has Set Us Free
Lesson 13 “Boasting in the Cross”

I. Introduction and Review - Paul wrote this book to give an revelation of grace and what the true gospel is. He wrote in a very emphatic and dogmatic and sort of in your face style.

A. Paul was writing to churches in Galatia that he founded on his first missionary journey (*Acts 13-14*). These churches were founded in approximately 48 A.D.

1. Paul wrote Galatians about 3 years after he founded these churches to counter the teaching of the Judaizers. The Judaizers had come in and begin to say that these Christians had to continue to believe in Jesus but also live by the Mosaic law to be right with God. Watered down the gospel. Paul called their teaching of mixture a different gospel and said that those that taught it were accursed.

2. The main point of the letter is we are saved by putting faith in God’s grace. We cannot add to what Jesus did for us to get saved, maintain our salvation, and/or to receive any of the blessings of God like healing, prosperity, etc.

B. Tonight we are going to close out the series. We will look Galatians **6:11-18** where Paul finishes out his letter emphatically by emphasizing how we are to boast in the finished work of the cross.

II. Boasting in the Cross

A. **Galatians 6:11** - *See what large letters I have written to you* - Some theologians have speculated Paul had an eye disease and couldn’t see. Not true - see our previous teaching on Paul’s thorn in the flesh. He was writing in large letters to emphasize the message. It would be how we write an email in all caps today.

B. **Galatians 6:12-15 See Through A Cross**

1. The Judaizers wanted people to keep the law and get circumcised as a feather in their cap. They didn’t care about the people. They did this partly to avoid persecution that preaches the cross of Christ.

a. What does this mean today? Yes, many atheists and God haters criticize people like me for preaching Jesus.

b. The truth is I get as much or more criticism from religious Christians who get mad at me for teaching healing, favor, the fact that women can preach, etc - the grace of God than I do from non-religious people.

2. In *verse 14*, Paul says he lasts in the cross of Christ. Let me illustrate that for you so you get what he means.

a. **Genesis 48:3-20** In this story, Jacob adopts Joseph’s sons Ephraim and Manasseh and awards them an inheritance. The inheritance was supposed

to be for the sons, not grandsons. They were being awarded an inheritance they didn't work for or deserve. It was given by unmerited favor.

b. **Verse 14** Joseph put his right hand on Ephraim's head and left hand on Manasseh's head which caused his arms to cross. Jacob looked at them through a cross.

c. He then took his right hand which symbolized honor and authority and blessed the younger - Ephraim. What did Ephraim do to deserve the greater blessing? Nothing, it was provided by cross. All he could do was boast in the cross. The same is true for us!

d. Joseph rebuked his Dad, however his father said he knew what He was doing. What the father did was offensive. The finished work of the cross is offensive to the religious mind. It forgives the leper, the prostitute, the person who commits abortion, it pays for divine healing, financial blessing, etc. The father knows what He is doing.

3. **Verse 15** We are now new creations in Christ. In order to see this, we must see through the cross. We must be cross-eyed. Cross eyed people see double (natural and spiritual worlds).

a. Naturally cross-eyed people tend to have weaker eyes, which causes their eyes to cross.

b. It's realizing our weakness after the flesh that causes us to look to the spirit. We still see the natural, but we depend on the spirit to see greater reality. **2 Corinthians 5:17** - "I don't behold iniquity in Jacob." -

Numbers 23:21. ex: healing, finances.

D. Galatians 6:16-18 Blessing and Final Instructions

1. **Verse 16** - The rule Paul is talking about is dependency on Jesus. When I do this, there is a manifestation of the peace and mercy of God on my life.

2. **Verse 17** - Paul is referring to the whip marks on his back he suffered for preaching Jesus.

3. **Verse 18** - The grace of God is with our spirit. We must see into the spiritual realm.

III. Conclusion - We must learn to look at our lives through the finished work of the cross and depend on Jesus. This is what causes the favor and blessing of God manifests.

A. Call Up Prayer Team

B. Closing - Prayer