

The Sermon

Welcome

Good morning!

My Name is Pastor Jonathan

And I am so grateful that each of you are here today.

Everyone is welcome at Harvey!

Opening Illustration

Now, a few years ago, my parents downsized and moved into the house they live in now.

And they called my brother and me and said...

"Hey we've been hauling your stuff around for 20 years...so it's time to come get it.."

So the next time we were in Mississippi...I started digging through boxes.

And...it was like opening a time capsule.

- ***I found my old Tonka trucks***...you know the real ones...made out of solid metal, from the '80s...the kind you could drop off a roof and they still work....
- ***I found a spring-loaded rocking horse my grandfather bought me when I was little...***
 - And it still works even today...
- ***I even found my baseball card collection.***
 - I was convinced as a kid it was gonna make me a millionaire...
 - Turns out they're worth about two tanks of gas now.

But then...in the bottom of one of those boxes...

- I found my old trophies.
 - Trophies I had gotten for playing baseball and football that I had forgotten about...

And the second I saw them...I remembered how I felt the day I got those trophies

- ***I remember thinking...***
 - I DID THAT.
 - That's MINE.

I was so proud of them...

- And now here they were...
- In the bottom of a box...

Galatians 6:11-18 | A Boast Worth Having

- The thing I had been the most proud of...
- Ended up in the bottom of a box...
- Forgotten about...

And I was thinking about that this week and thought...

- I don't really collect trophies anymore...
- ***But I'm not sure I ever really stopped wanting them...***
- ***I just started collecting different ones.***

And I don't think I'm the only one...

- Maybe yours is a title...
- Maybe it's a degree....
- Or your kids' accomplishments...
- Or your reputation...
- Or how long you've been a member here...

We've got a whole lot of things...we can boast in today...that ends up in the bottom of a box for eternity...

So here's my question for us today:

IS THERE ANYTHING WORTH BOASTING IN...

THAT WON'T END UP IN THE BOTTOM OF A BOX?

Transition

And that's **EXACTLY** the question our text deals with this morning... Because after 18 weeks...we've come to the end of the book of Galatians

And Paul personally picks up the pen and underlines it...

Because he wants to make sure that we know THE ONE THING WORTH BOASTING IN...

Transition

So, if you have your Bibles, take them out and turn to the book of **Galatians**, and we're going to be in **Chapter 6, vs. 11-18** today.

Let's start reading in vs. 11-13

I. Don't Boast In The Flesh (Galatians 6:11-13)

Final Warning and Benediction

11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand.

Galatians 6:11-18 | A Boast Worth Having

12 *It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.*

13 *For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.*

A. Paul Underlines It (6:11)

Paul begins by saying, **SEE WHAT LARGE LETTERS I AM WRITING TO YOU...**

- Now what in the world does that mean?

Well, normally Paul would dictate his letters to a professional scribe... and then he would take the pen at the very end and sign his name, so everyone knew it was really from him.

But here, Paul takes the pen and writes the whole ending himself.

- **AND MOST LIKELY**, Paul made these letters bigger on purpose...to emphasize what he was about to say.
- Like, today, if we want to emphasize something, we make it **BOLD**, or we **UNDERLINE** it...or put it in **ALL CAPS...**
- In the same way, in this day, making the letters larger would mean the same thing...
- It was like Paul was saying...**HEY, PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SAY!**

B. What It Looks Like To Boast In Yourself (6:12)

See **The Main issue at stake in this letter...has been the question of whether Christianity is an OUTWARD religion or an INWARD one.**

So in **vs. 12**...Paul says that those who want it to be an outward religion... they wanna make a good showing...in the flesh They wanted to LOOK GOOD.

See The Judaizers were focused on what was outward....circumcision.

- And not just for themselves...

Galatians 6:11-18 | A Boast Worth Having

- **BUT ALSO** forcing The Galatian Christians to believe that they needed to make a good showing in the flesh too.

And Paul says...these religious leaders were **FORCING** the Galatians...towards an outward religion...

In fact, like we saw Paul say in Acts 15:1, these Judaizers were saying, “**Unless you are circumcised...you cannot be saved**”.

In other words, these false teachers were telling the Galatian believers, like we’ve seen throughout this entire book...

That Christ Alone was not enough for salvation....

- That they had to have something to do with their own salvation....
- And Paul, **in large letters**, is reminding them once again...
- **NO! WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE ALONE, THROUGH FAITH ALONE, IN CHRIST ALONE!**

So why were these false teachers doing this?

First, they wanted to make a good showing in the flesh...

- They wanted others to see them and praise them for their perceived works....

But at the same time, they did this to keep from being persecuted....

SO they were trying to force the Galatian believers, to this outward form of legalism...through circumcision...to avoid persecution for resting in Christ alone for salvation.

Now why would the cross get you persecuted in the first place?

Why do people get so angry about the cross of Christ?

John Stott said this:

- The cross tells us some very unpleasant truths about ourselves.
- It tells us that we are sinners under the curse of God's law...and that we cannot save ourselves.
- Because if we could have been saved by our own good works... there would have been no need for the cross.

In fact John Stott said this:

"Every time we look at the cross Christ seems to say to us, 'I am here because of you.'

Galatians 6:11-18 | A Boast Worth Having

It is your sin I am bearing, your curse I am suffering, your debt I am paying, your death I am dying.'
Nothing in history or in the universe cuts us down to size like the cross."

THAT is why the world hates the cross.

- Because it tells us the truth about ourselves.
- That we could not and can not save ourselves...
- But we needed the perfect Son of God to bring salvation to us!

And the cross of Christ still brings persecution TODAY!

Like even for us...

- Peer pressure can keep us from talking about the cross of Christ
- Because we don't want to be left out,
- Or marked as a religious weirdo,
- or people texting about us behind our backs...

So we fall in line with social expectations....

This is where The Galatian believers were...resting in The Cross of Christ for their salvation...meant that they were social outcasts! From the Jews of all people!

So Paul says...they're trying to make a good showing...**AND** they're trying to force you to make a good showing...so that none of you will be persecuted for saying that Christ Alone is the way of salvation!...

And they're hiding behind saying they're following **"God's Law"**... But really...they're just trying to avoid persecution!

Because the cross declares that salvation is completely a work of Jesus Christ....

C. What They Want You To Boast In (6:13)

But Paul says...they're hypocrites....

- they themselves do not even keep the whole law....

Back in **Galatians 5:3 the text said:** *I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law.*

So Paul is reminding the Galatian Christians...

Galatians 6:11-18 | A Boast Worth Having

Hey, they're making circumcision the main thing...

- The thing that ***YOU MUST DO...***
- But ***THEY FORGOT*** that for a person to be saved by their own doing...they ***are OBLIGATED to keep the WHOLE LAW!***

That means if you're circumcized...but you tell one white lie...

- ***apart from the grace of Christ...you go to hell...***

If you're circumcized...and you even think an evil thought...

- ***apart from the grace of Christ...you go to hell...***

So Paul says...they're hypocrites...

- They've picked this ***one thing*** ...and they're sayin...if you do this one...then you're golden....you're good....
- ***But that's not the whole law of God...***

SEE when it comes to the whole law of God...

ONLY ONE HAS EVER KEPT IT PERFECTLY...

- ***and He went to the cross...***
- ***AND Bore the wrath of God...***
- ***FOR YOUR SINS!***

So trust in Him...not in this one OUTWARD ACT...

And we read this...and we say how foolish were these Galatians!?!...

But we can do the same thing, can't we!?

- In our culture over the years...
- Christians have been known more often by what ***WE CAN'T DO...***
- Than ***WHO IT IS WE REST IN...FOR SALVATION...***
- ***WE TOO CAN FIND ONE PARTICULAR "DON'T DO" AND THINK THAT IF WE DON'T DO THAT THING...THEN WE'RE GOOD...***
- ***BUT THE WHOLE POINT IS: WE CAN'T PERFECTLY DO GOOD!***
- ***THAT'S WHY WE NEED JESUS, WHO WAS AND IS PERFECTLY GOOD!***

And then Paul says...

Galatians 6:11-18 | A Boast Worth Having

They desire you to be circumcized... so they too can boast in your flesh!

- So they can say...hey look at how many people I have convinced to **DO THIS ONE THING...**
- One commentator referred to this as they were collecting converts like trophies...that they could hang on a wall....

In our culture it may sound like...

- Hey, look at how many people I've influenced...
- Look how many followers I have
- So that we can boast in what we've done...rather than what **CHRIST HAS DONE...**

And I have to be honest...that's a temptation even for Pastors TODAY...

- It's easy to start keeping score with **the 4 B's...**
 - **Bottoms in seats**
 - **Baptisms**
 - **Budgets**
 - **And Buildings...**

Like every preacher meeting you go to....

It seems like, especially with Older Pastors, it can turn into a bragging fest...

Like:

- We've got this many bottoms in a seat
- We've baptized this many this year...
- Our budget is this big!
- We've built this many buildings....

AND I HATE THAT...DRIVES ME NUTS...NOTHING TURNS ME AWAY QUICKER FROM A CONVERSATION THAN THAT....

But if I'm being really honest...there's this litter part of me that wants to jump in...and boast....

SEE THE TRUTH IS...THE TEMPTATION IS THERE FOR ALL OF US TO BOAST IN SOMETHING!

Because Paul's point here...is the reality that:

**WE CAN'T BOAST IN OUR FLESH OR IN OUR WORKS...
BECAUSE OUR FLESH IS SINFUL....**

SO is there a boast worth having?....

I think there is a test we can run to see if a boast is worth having:

- 1. A boast worth having IS NOT ABOUT YOU.**
- 2. A boast worth having CANNOT BE TAKEN FROM YOU.**
- 3. A boast worth having WILL STILL BE STANDING ON THE LAST DAY.**

Look back at what these men were boasting in.

1. Was it about them?

- YES.
- It was THEIR converts, THEIR record, and THEIR numbers.

2. Could it be taken from them?

- ABSOLUTELY.
- One convert walks away, and the scoreboard changes...
- The trophy is gone

3. And will it be standing on the last day?

What is a person going to say when he stands before a holy God?

- Certainly not look at what I've done...
- Because it all falls short...

SEE Those men had a boast.

AND IT WASN'T WORTH HAVING.

And Church...neither does our boast...if it's built on us.

So what, then, can we boast in?

Let's keep reading in vs. 14-16 to see.

II. Boast Only In The Cross (Galatians 6:14-16)

14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

15 For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

Galatians 6:11-18 | A Boast Worth Having

16 And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

A. The Only Thing Worth Boasting In (6:14a)

Vs. 14 begins with the word “**BUT**”

Paul just showed us a boast that wasn't worth having...a boast in ourselves...

And now he says....**BUT...HERE'S SOMETHING WORTH BOASTING IN....**

FAR BE IT FROM ME TO BOAST EXCEPT IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

That phrase “far be it from me”...was the strongest way in the Greek Language to say: **NO! MAY IT NEVER BE!**

So Paul is saying....**MAY IT NEVER BE THAT I BOAST IN ANYTHING ELSE!**

And when Paul talks about **BOASTING** in Christ...

- It's this idea of **rejoicing, exalting, or bringing glory to Jesus Christ.**

See where the Judaizers were boasting in themselves and their circumcision...and how many of the Galatian Christians they had converted to Jewish legalism....

Paul says...**MAY IT NEVER BE THAT WE BOAST IN ANYTHING WITHIN US....BUT ALWAYS BOAST IN THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST!**

See, the truth is:

We can't boast in ourselves and in the cross at the same time.

Paul says...the boast worth having....**IS THE CROSS!**

And in this day and time...when Paul said this...**this would have been shocking! ...the cross was a crazy thing to boast in....**

John Piper said what Paul is saying here is like saying:

- Only boast in the electric chair.
- Only rejoice in the lethal injection.

Like nobody talked like that in this day...

EXCEPT PAUL.

We've lost the shock of the cross in our culture....

But Paul picks the ONE WORD...that the world thought was shameful in this day and time...

He picked the part that we don't like to read about...

- Jesus body beaten, mocked, scorned, and dying between two criminals on a cruel cross....

And Paul says...**THAT'S WHAT I'M BOASTING IN!**

I wonder in your life...

- If someone was asked...what do they boast in?
- What are they proud of?
- How would they answer?

And maybe you're thinking....

- Well, can't I brag on my kids?
- Can't I be proud of my wife?
- Can't I be thankful for that grandbaby?
- Can't I be grateful for my degree?

Of course you can!

John Piper put it this way:

For a Christian...every other boast is supposed to BECOME a boast in the cross.

Maybe you've met someone who every time someone gives them a compliment...they use it as an opportunity...to boast in Jesus Christ and His Amazing Grace...

I think that's what Paul is talking about here...

- Not boasting in ourselves...
- But taking every opportunity to boast in Christ Alone!

Galatians 6:11-18 | A Boast Worth Having

See a humble heart...who remembers **WHO THEY ARE** and **WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE...**

Takes every opportunity to **BOAST IN CHRIST ALONE....**

That's a Boast Worth having!

It's all from Christ and it's ALL FOR CHRIST!

In fact...our big idea for today is this:

Big Idea

Stop Boasting In What You've Done; Boast Only In What Christ Has Done!

B. The Cross Changes What You Live For (6:14b)

Look at the second half of **vs. 14...**

by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world

Paul is saying that boasting in the cross means more than simply believing that Jesus died for your sins...

It also means living a crucified life!

In other words, Paul is saying he saw the world that everyone else was chasing...

- wealth
- fame...
- Power...
- **And he had put it to death.....**

See Paul saw Jesus, who is perfect love, walk into this world...and the world nailed Him to a tree....

- And Paul said...I've seen what the world did with Jesus...
- And I'm not impressed with it anymore...
- So the world and everything in it...has been crucified to me!

But Paul Also Says...I've been crucified to the world...

- See, the world looked at Paul and thought...**HE's A FOOL...**

Before Jesus, Paul was Saul...and he was A SOMEBODY in that world...

- He had power...

Galatians 6:11-18 | A Boast Worth Having

- He had influence...
- He was a scholar...
- He was educated...

But the minute Jesus met Him on the road to Damascus, he was radically saved and started preaching Christ...

- ***AND THEN*** The World looked at Paul and said... “Don’t listen to him...he’s a fool!”...

In other words, Paul is saying...when you start boasting in Christ...

- It costs you ***EVERYTHING...***
- And it changes everything in your life!

It costs you everything in the way that the world is going to view you...

- But it also changes everything with how you view what The World has to offer....

Back in **Galatians 2:20** Paul said...***I HAVE been crucified with Christ***

- Paul doesn’t say I ***AM BEING*** Crucified...he says, I ***HAVE BEEN...***

In other words, what Paul is saying is:

- When my boast changed from myself to Christ alone...
 - He became the one I’m pursuing...
 - He became the one that I am making much of...

See, when our boast is in Christ Alone...

- we’re no longer concerned about impressing others or the world around us...
- We’re focused solely on giving glory to the one who has radically saved us!

Christian: Where’s your boast today!?

C. Only A New Creation Counts (6:15)

Look at **vs. 15**, Paul says...for circumcision...what you’ve done externally...or uncircumcision...what you haven’t done externally....***DOESN’T COUNT FOR ANYTHING!***

Galatians 6:11-18 | A Boast Worth Having

In other words...Paul is saying...

- A lot of people are boasting in something they've done...
- And a lot of people are boasting in ***WHAT THEY HAVEN'T DONE...***

But Paul says they're looking at the ***WRONG SCOREBOARD!***

- Because it was never about what you and I have done or not done in our flesh....
- ***IT'S ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE!***
- ***THAT HE HAS MADE US A NEW CREATION IN HIM!***

2 Corinthians 5:17 says:

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

It's all about what Christ has done in us!

Hey Today:

I don't know what you've done and what you haven't done...
And I don't know how the Devil may be lying to you and telling you that Jesus wants nothing to do with you because of what you've done...or haven't done...

But I just want to remind you what The Word of God says....

- ***IT'S ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE!***
- ***And Christ Can Take You And Make you a New Creation!***

Our Boast is in Christ Alone!

Now, I've noticed something in our culture over the past decade or so...

- Where the Judaizers were boasting in circumcision....
- Our culture can also boast in something outward...we boast in ***BAPTISM...***

Now, before you get ready to fire the Baptist preacher who said we boast in our baptism....

- Hear me: I believe baptism is our first act of obedience
- I believe it's an ordinance...Jesus told us to do it, and so we do it...
- And we celebrate every single baptism...

But what I mean by that is...

Galatians 6:11-18 | A Boast Worth Having

- I've noticed in our culture that when I ask people if they're a follower of Jesus Christ...
- Increasingly...the first thing they point to is their baptism...
- "Well, I was baptized at this age...or I was baptized in this church by this preacher....

That's someone telling me about something external they've done...

- And that's the same thing The Judaizers were doing...

Instead of someone telling me about something internal that Jesus did in their life...

- that Jesus took them from death to life....
- That were made a new creation in Christ....

So in that way...baptism **CAN** become our own form of **OUTWARD OBEDIENCE with NO INTERNAL CHANGE...**

And if you've been here for a baptism....every single time...I say... there's nothing special in the water...

- It is an outward expression of what Christ **HAS ALREADY DONE INSIDE** of us...
- Our baptism doesn't save us...just like circumcision didn't save them in that day....

The reality is...

Only Christ can make us a new creation!

Our Boast is not in circumcision...

Our boast is not in our baptism...

OUR BOAST IS CHRIST HAS MADE US A NEW CREATION!

D. Peace And Mercy For All Who Walk By This Rule (6:16)

Vs. 16 says:

16 And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

Everyone who walks by this **RULE**...that salvation is through the cross of Christ alone...that **they are a new creation in Him**....peace and mercy are upon them!

Galatians 6:11-18 | A Boast Worth Having

For the Judaizers...they believed that circumcision was the rule that determined whether people were inside or outside of the family of God...

But God's Word here has just said that circumcision or uncircumcision doesn't count for anything...but whether or not **WE ARE A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST**...is what counts for everything!

So Paul has been saying...

- We **can't** boast in what we have done...

The **ONLY BOAST WORTH HAVING and the ONLY RULE THAT brings true peace and mercy...IS THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST! THAT THROUGH HIM, WE ARE NEW CREATIONS!**

Then we get to the second part of this verse...and UPON THE ISRAEL OF GOD

And I want to be honest with you...lots of godly men have disagreed on what this means.

But in reading this book as a whole...it seems to me...

- That **Chapter 3 vs. 28** said that **there is neither Jew nor Greek**
- And in **Chapter 3 vs. 29** it said that **if you belong to Christ, you are Abraham's offspring**....
- So it seems then to me that "**The Israel of God**" is simply the people of God...Jews and Gentiles together...**everyone who walks by the rule of the cross...**
- **So if a Gentile becomes a believer...**
 - They're part of the family of God...
- **And if a Jewish person comes to faith in Jesus Christ...**
 - They're part of the family of God.

That's not just my opinion...that's literally what **Galatians 3:28 says: 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

One Cross. One Savior. One People.
Boasting in Christ Alone.

So **IS THERE A BOAST WORTH HAVING?**
ABSOLUTELY...AND HIS NAME IS JESUS!
Earlier I asked 3 questions about boasting in ourselves...

But what if it's in the Cross?

1. Is it about us?

- No.
- You weren't even there.
- It was finished before we ever drew a breath!

2. Can It Be Taken From Us?

- NO! You can't lose what you've never earned!

3. Will it still be standing on the last day?

- It's the only thing that will be standing on the last day...

The Only Boast worth having is in Christ Alone!

But there **are some costs** in boasting in Christ alone.

Let's keep reading in **vs. 17-18** to see what those are.

III. Bear The Marks, Rest In The Grace (Galatians 6:17-18)

17 From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

A. Bearing Jesus' Marks (6:17)

Vs. 17 begins with Paul saying, **let no one cause me trouble.**

We've seen throughout this letter that the Judaizers were saying that Paul was not a true apostle...they were seeking to discredit him... That the Judaizers were seeking to pull the Galatian Christians away from resting in Christ Alone....

So Paul says clearly...

STOP IT! STOP CAUSING TROUBLE FOR BELIEVERS!

Galatians 6:11-18 | A Boast Worth Having

Then Paul says I bear the marks of Jesus.

- Now this does not literally mean that Paul bore the same exact wounds of Jesus Christ...
- These are the scars that Paul himself had received from persecution for following Jesus.

2 Corinthians 11:23-25 tells us:

- Paul had received “countless beatings”....
- 5 times the 39 lashes of the Jews
- He was beaten with rods 3 times
- And he was stoned once.

And The permanent scars left behind were “***the marks of Jesus***” that he bore...

In Acts 14...we see that they picked up rocks...and they stoned Paul...and they dragged him out of the city and left him for dead...and the city this happened in was Lystra....

You know where Lystra was?...it was one of the cities in Galatia...

Like quite literally when this letter was read out loud....

- There were probably people sitting in that room who had **SEEN THIS HAPPEN!**
- They had seen people pick up the rocks
- They had seen him left for dead, laying in the dirt...

But **Acts 14:22** says, Paul got up, went back into that same city...and told those same believers.... “***through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.***”

So when Paul writes I bear on my body the marks of Jesus....

- He's not being dramatic..
- He's saying what many of them already knew and had seen!
- I've got marks from **FOLLOWING JESUS**...

This is also a warning for every Christian...

- ***That following Jesus is costly...***
- And when we **BOAST IN THE CROSS**...
- This is the kind of treatment we can expect...
- That physically or verbally...people are gonna throw rocks at us!

And I want you to notice the contrast here...

- The Judaizers wanted a mark in the flesh...circumcision...so they could **AVOID** persecution...
- BUT Paul says I have marks on my flesh...and they **CAME FROM persecution...FOR proclaiming Christ Alone is enough for salvation!**

HEY, FOR US TODAY:

The chances of someone getting stoned in Stephenville for following Jesus... are pretty low....

But when we follow Jesus...there will be MARKS TO BEAR...

- ***There's gonna be*** a family member who doesn't want anything to do with us...**BECAUSE** we proclaim Jesus Christ.
- There's gonna be a professor who singles you out because you believe Jesus Christ is fully God and fully human...
- There's gonna be a tense work situation because you don't participate in the dirty jokes or the crude behavior of others....

When we BOAST IN CHRIST ALONE...there will be MARKS TO BEAR...

B. Grace, Brothers (6:18)

And then we come to the final words of this letter that we have been in since ***May....and Paul takes it back to how he began.***

Chapter 1 vs. 3, Paul began by saying, ***Grace To You!***
And now he ends with Grace Be with You!

And Paul ends this letter...by calling these he was writing to...
BROTHERS....

Over 6 Chapters, Paul has said:

- He was **ASTONISHED** at them (1:6)...
- He called them **FOOLISH** (3:1)...
- He asked who had **BEWITCHED** them (3:1)...
- He said he was **AFRAID** he had wasted his time on them (4:11)...
- He said he was **PERPLEXED** about them (4:20)...

Like this was not a gentle letter...

- Yet...after ALL of that...
- He calls them...BROTHERS.

He was so intense with them...

- Because these were not just people he knew...
- But these brothers were his family who he deeply loved....

And when we truly love people...

- we always point them back to what is true....

That we can boast in Christ Alone!

- ***Because by no merit of our own...***
- ***We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ Alone!***

Amen.

Transition

Now that's what God's Word says and means.

Now I want to really quickly look at a few ways we can apply this text to our own lives.

Applications

1. What Is Your Life Boasting In?

Nobody can look inside your heart and see where YOUR HOPE IS..

But they can **HEAR** what you're boasting in.

- *They hear what you bring up over and over...*
- *They hear what you get excited about...*

So this week...take note of what you're boasting in...

- In the stands at a ball game...
- At the table after church...
- In your text threads...

And whatever you keep talking about...

THAT MAY JUST REVEAL WHERE YOUR HOPE IS...where your BOAST IS....

And then ask the three questions about boasting...

1. Is it about you?
2. Can it be taken from you?
3. Will it still be standing on the last day?

What's your life boasting in?

Because if it's not The Cross of Jesus Christ...

- then it is about us
- It can be taken from us
- And it won't be standing on the last day...

So even in the things we're thankful for...like don't stop being thankful for them...

But in every moment...let's take every good gift...and point our boast back to CHRIST Alone who has given us every good gift!

2. What Is Following Christ Costing You?

Paul ended this letter by saying: "**I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.**"

And remember

- The false teachers wanted a mark...so they could AVOID the cost.
- But Paul had marks...because he **PAID** the cost.

And...like I said earlier...nobody in Stephenville is getting stoned for following Jesus...at least now....

But...Look at your life....

- At your calendar...
- At your friend group...
- At your bank statement....

What is it costing you to follow Jesus Christ?

Because there is a real danger for each of us...particularly in our culture in "The Bible Belt"...

- We can come to church...and it doesn't cost us much...
- We can call ourselves a Christian...and it doesn't cost us much...

We can just like the Judaizers be associated with Jesus, without it costing us anything....

But following Jesus should be costing all of us something....

- At a minimum, it should be costing us from being satisfied in the things of this world...
- It should cost us turning from our sin....

Paul said in this letter that ***HE HAD PUT TO DEATH...the things in the WORLD....***

I said it before and I'll say it again....

I fear for many of us...

- We can often keep following Christ “***on the back burner***”
- Because what ***IS on the front burner***, in our minds, are the things of this world...

What's it costing you to follow Jesus?

What marks are you bearing for following Jesus?

- Some of those marks should look like us being less in love with the things of the world

Now...those marks aren't what save you...

- Jesus' marks are what saved us...

But the marks in our lives are just the evidence of ***WHO IT IS*** that we belong to!

SO WHAT IS IT COSTING YOU TO FOLLOW JESUS?

If the answer is nothing....

- ***you might have to ask yourself...***
- ***Am I really following Jesus...***
- ***Or am I just playing church!?***

Following Jesus is costly...what's it costing you?

3. A Boast Worth Having

Maybe you have been coming to church for a long time...but you've realized this morning....

- I've never actually had anything to boast in but myself...
 - How many times I come to church...
 - How many good things I do...

Galatians 6:11-18 | A Boast Worth Having

- How well people think about me...

So let me ask you the question we began with this morning....

IS THERE A BOAST WORTH HAVING?!

Because here's the truth:

- One day, every single one of us is going to stand before a Holy God...And on that day...***you're going to boast in something...***

And the Good News of The Bible is This:

God is Holy.

In the beginning, God created all things, and He alone is perfect.

Humans are Sinful.

Beginning with Adam and Eve, every single human has sinned.....ALL OF US HAVE fallen short of the glory of God.

THIS CREATES A PROBLEM.

Because our sin separates us from a good and perfect God, in this life and the next.

We are deserving of the full weight of God's wrath.

And there's no boast on earth that fixes that problem...

- Not your reputation...
- Not your baptism...
- Not your good works...

Every one of those falls short of perfection....

Therefore, we need help!!

JESUS IS THE ANSWER.

But God, who is rich in mercy, did not leave us without a Redeemer.

God loved us so much that He sent us His only Son, Jesus Christ, who came to Earth as a baby.

He was and IS fully God and fully man.

Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life here on Earth...

Yet He willingly went to the cross...

AND He became the curse...FOR US.

- He really died for your sins and my sins.
- He was really buried.
- And three days later, He really rose from the grave, defeating sin and death!

THAT is a boast worth having!

THIS MEANS...

Today, we don't have to remain separated from God.

We can have a Redeemer named Jesus Christ!

If we turn from our sins, confess Jesus Christ as BOTH LORD AND SAVIOR, and follow Him in faith, then we can and will be saved from our sin that separates us from God.

And the moment you trust Him...you become a NEW CREATION.

- Not because of anything you have done.
- But because of the all-sufficient merit of Jesus Christ.

SO THIS MORNING...

- Maybe you've spent your whole life boasting in yourself
- Maybe you've been keeping score...I'm done this many good things...this many bad things...and you're tired.

Today, you can put down every other boast...

And boast in the cross of Jesus Christ.

And on that day when God asks...why should I let you in to MY HEAVEN...you can boast fully in the Cross of Christ and what HE HAS DONE!

TODAY:

- ***Would you turn from your sin...***
- ***Confess Jesus Christ as both Lord and Savior...***
- ***And believe that He is WHO HE SAYS HE IS?***

Grab any member of this church...in this moment...after this service...throughout this week...

- ***And we would LOVE to show you what it means to be a New Creation!***

Everything we've ever done...ends up in a box.

What Christ has done...never will.

Big Idea

Stop Boasting In What You've Done; Boast Only In What Christ Has Done!

Church, I Love You So Much. Let's Pray