

Opening Statement:

Ladies and Gentlemen,
I have stepped into this pulpit over 450 times since you called me to fill your pulpit!

I have preached for over 34 years now and over 10,000 times!

I have preached many sermons on many different topics and passages but there's one that is the most important—*The Cross of Jesus Christ!*

Someone may ask, "*Why do you preach so much on the Cross?*"

To that I would say two reasons:

1. It's the only way the lost may come to Christ.
2. To us that are saved, it is our power and strength!

1 Corinthians 1:18 (KJV)

¹⁸ For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:21 (KJV)

²¹ For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

The Cross of Jesus displays to us the Grace of God!

[Song] "*The Well of grace*"

I want to preach this evening on this subject:

**"Why Paul Gloried in The Cross"
(...and so should we)!**

Scripture Reading: *Galatians 6:12-16 (Key Verse, 14)*

Background Observation:

The closing chapter of Galatians gives some short exhortations about various areas of Christian conduct, takes a final shot at circumcision in salvation, and concludes with a farewell. Galatians 6 may be divided into three major parts as follows:

- A. The Conduct of Believers (Galatians 6:1-10)
- B. The Circumcision Issue (Galatians 6:12-15)
- C. The Closing Farewell (Galatians 6:11, 16-18)

--Analytical Bible Expositor - Analytical Bible Expositor – Galatians-Colossians.

It is within that last section that we find our text this evening.

Now for the message: "*Why Paul Gloried in the Cross?*"

It is because of what he "knew" about the Cross:

(He Knew) ...

I. The Person of the Cross

Paul knew Christ by “experience!”

Acts 9:1-6 (KJV)

¹ And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

² And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

³ And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

⁴ And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him,

Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

⁵ And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, **I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.**

⁶ And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord *said* unto him, **Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.**

2 Timothy 1:12 (KJV)

¹² For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

He knew 2 things about this Person and His Cross (sacrifice for sin):

1. **He knew HE satisfied the claims of the Law!**

Colossians 2:13-14 (KJV)

¹³ And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of

your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

¹⁴ Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Romans 8:1-4 (KJV)

¹ *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

³ For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

⁴ That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2. **He knew HE satisfied the demands of The Holy God!**

John 4:34 (KJV)

³⁴ Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

Romans 5:8 (KJV)

⁸ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (KJV)

³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

2 Corinthians 5:21 (KJV)

²¹ For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Paul did not glory in anyone (including himself) except Christ!

Paul mentions his own crucifixion with Christ:

Galatians 6:14 (KJV)

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.

Galatians 2:20 (KJV)

²⁰ I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Galatians 5:24 (KJV)

²⁴ And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

(He knew) ...

II. **The Purpose of the Cross**

To **Rescue**, **Redeem** and **Reconcile** lost Humanity!

Ephesians 2:14-18 (KJV)

¹⁴ For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*;

¹⁵ Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of

commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace;

¹⁶ And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

¹⁷ And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

¹⁸ For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Colossians 1:20-22 (KJV)

²⁰ And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.

²¹ And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

²² In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

(He knew) ...

III. **The Power of the Cross**

He knew 3 things about its power:

1. **Its Power to Save!**

Romans 1:16 (KJV)

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 Corinthians 1:18 (KJV)

¹⁸ For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

2. **Its Power to Set Free!**

John 8:32 (KJV)

³² And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:36 (KJV)

³⁶ If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

3. **Its Power to Secure!**

John 10:28 (KJV)

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

Philippians 1:6 (KJV)

⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

Ephesians 4:30 (KJV)

³⁰ And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

The Salvation provided by Christ at the Cross is Eternal!

If you've accepted it; that's it! You're secure!

CONCLUSION:

In closing let me just ask a question, “*What are you glorying in?*”

Your popularity, possessions, or position?

Do you know Him?

Come while we sing...

Invitation Hymn: (Big) #338 “*At Calvary*”

Beach, B. – 4/23/95-a.m. @ MHBC (Pastorate)—Kensington, GA

11/2/97-a.m. @ TBC (Pastorate)—Dalton, GA

12/28/03-a.m. @ CBC (Pastorate)—Resaca, GA

11/27/16-a.m. @ Olivia Baptist (Pastorate)—Dalton, GA

1/25/23-wed @ WH Baptist (Pastorate)—Dalton, GA