

Galatians 6.11-18

What Really Matters

What R U BOASTING In? SILLY Question! Christians! NOT to BOAST!

...you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. James 4.16

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -- not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2.8,9

MOST of the TIME TRUE > We BOAST WRONGLY or of WRONG Things!

LIONEL MESSI – Most GOALS Scored – HAND it BACK! Sorry I Cannot Boast!

Party CONGRATULATE Grandparents 50 Years of MARRIAGE –

Exclusive, Love, Loyalty, Faithfulness

Christian RESPONSE? > TURN Off the LIGHTS and Tell those BOASTFUL SINNERS to GO HOME!

In the BIBLE > BOASTING is NOT ALWAYS BAD

1 Corinthians > Paul SCOLDS BOASTING Church for of WRONG Things / Ways

2 Corinthians > Paul BOASTS in the Lord for His Great FAITHFULNESS

Galatians 6 – TWO Kinds of BOASTING > CONTRAST of MOTIVES

END of LETTER usually NO BIG DEAL – Good WISHES, Final GREETING INTERESTING What is NOT in this END of a PAULINE Letter:

NO > TRAVEL Plans, FINAL Greetings, PRAYER Requests, JOY, Doxology EVEN the FINAL Benediction is CONDITIONAL > Those who WALK by Rules

End of Letter > “Let me just MAKE the POINT AGAIN – Don’t FORGET THIS!”

1. Foolish Boasting

Jewish Christian M Workers: v. 12 want to make a good showing in the flesh

Lit. BOAST in the FLESH > word = “present a good face”

v. 13 that they may boast in your flesh // Lit. FLESH, No MORAL Reference
BOASTING in PRIVATE Parts that MOST People would not TALK About

ONE Sister asked with bit of BLUSH “*Could you give a Sermon on Galatians without TALKING About CIRCUMCISION?*” > **Well, NOT TODAY!**

The Gentile would smile at the idea that circumcision could be considered by anyone to be a good showing; to him it was a barbarous and disfiguring custom, like the tattooing of a savage. R. Alan Cole

a. Advance by Force

v. 12 It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised

Galatians Jewish Christians NOT so SUBTLE > FORCING Psychological Spiritual

For before certain men came from James, he (Cephas) was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party.

Galatians 2.12

BOLD Peter > SPIRIT-filled Peter > PENTECOSTAL Power Peter
MORAL and RELIGIOUS Pressure > Brings REAL Fear into People’s Hearts

Some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” Acts 15.1

Becoming Jewish was the solution that would protect the Jewish Diaspora Christians from persecution. In the eyes of the authorities of Galatia, they would all be Jewish...Those Gentiles who joined them and observed the Jewish law in daily life would, as Jewish converts, be exempt from the imperial authorities.

B.W. Winter

i.e. you MUST do this to be SAVED > BAPTIZED – MEMBERSHIP – Rituals...

GUILT is GREAT Motivator > Works Really Good on Tender-Hearted People
FEW Christians THINK they PRAY Enough, GIVE Enough, READ Bible
Enough

NOT Hard for Preacher to PUSH Guilt Button on these Sensitive HEARTS
Some so Used to It > Mark of Good Sermon “it really made me feel bad!”

TRUE – We need to Pray, Give, Read A LOT More – I DO
But the Christian MESSAGE is one of GRACE – NOT GUILT

...God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance Romans 2.4

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with
punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because
he first loved us. 1 John 4.18,19

b. Adversity is Failure

v. 12and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.

FEAR of PERSECUTION > Written by SAUL of Tarsus FORMER Persecutor
Jewish Teachers sent to Galatia from HQ in Jerusalem // SAUL was Years
Before

Acts: Saul Sent OUT “Breathing MURDEROUS Threats” against
Uncircumcised!

But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In
that case the offense of the cross has been removed. Galatians 5.11

Far MORE IMPORTANT to Fear God and be Faithful to the Gospel

1980 Uganda Idi Amin drove AWAY – Mormons, JW, Prosperity/Health/Wealth

By 1990 – PEACE Came to UGANDA > They ALL CAME BACK!

Circumcision and baptism are things of the ‘flesh,’ outward and visible
ceremonies performed by men; the new creation is a birth of the Spirit, an inward
and invisible miracle performed by God. John Stott

c. Avoids the Facts

v. 13 For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law

PREACHED the Law but did NOT PRACTICE the Law

NOT Hypothetical for Paul > HONEST Confession – HE TRIED but Failed

Peter: “Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?”

Acts 15.10

But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast in God and know his will and approve what is excellent, because you are instructed from the law; and if you are sure that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law...For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. Romans 2.17-25

Woman: “London is so dirty – my fingernails are always dirty in this city”

Dr. Johnson: “Perhaps, madam, you scratch yourself”

d. Agenda is Foolish

v. 13 they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.

NOT interested in their FREEDOM, just their FORESKINS

Counted these like SCALPS to PROVE their VICTORY in Religious Battle
Lived and Died by ECCLESIASTICAL Statistics

The charge Paul is making is fourfold: they were *bullies*, *sycophants*, *hypocrites*, and *cowards* to boot! Can you feel the tension this must have created when it was read aloud in Galatia?
Derek Thomas

Jesus: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.” Matthew 23.15

PASTORS and CHURCHES Measure WORTH by ATTENDANCE & Offerings

Often missionaries have carried not just Christ but the message and values of Western capitalism with them to Africa and Asia and elsewhere, often with devastating effects. Ben Witherington III

CULTURAL IMPERIALISM > Model from USA, Korea, or Just ONE Place
It's NOT RIGHT if it's NOT WHITE – or Black, Yellow, Red, or Something...

2. Faithful Boasting

You can TELL A LOT about PEOPLE by LISTENING to their BOASTS
Galatians GLORY in HUMAN WORKS / Paul Glories in WORK of JESUS

a. Absorb the Force

v. 14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Glory in Cross? GORY Cross > GRUESOME Instrument of TORTURE / Death
Friend comes and ENTHUSIASTICALLY Says > Life has been CHANGED!
Joy, Peace, Love, Freedom, Forgiveness, Purpose, Hope, Direction, Contentment
Follow MAN: Fried in Electric Chair / Decapitated on Guillotine MADDNESS

GLORY in the INSTRUMENT that has SET THEM FREE > CROSS
NOT SADIST or MASOCHIST > Glories in CROSS for What it MEANS to him

Jesus: “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10.45

Jesus: “I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. John 12.32,33

We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 1 Corinthians 1.23,24

It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Galatians 3.1

Words like *redemption, propitiation, substitution, satisfaction* and *reconciliation* provide the cross with an explanation that makes Paul's boasting of it not only understandable but compulsory.

Derek Thomas

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

Paul's entire GOAL was to GLORY in the Cross > Gladly Accepted Persecution
SOME – Early Christians TATTOOED Selves to reflect Wounds of Christ
MIDDLE Ages > HOLY SAINTS claimed to have Marks of Jesus: St. FRANCIS
More Likely > Paul ref to SCARS on his body from BEATINGS for Jesus

...Paul's wounds utter a voice louder than a trumpet against those who say he plays the hypocrite in his teaching and speaks what may please men. For no one who saw a soldier retired from the battle bathed in blood and with a thousand would dare accuse him of cowardice

John Chrysostom, c. 347–407

Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. Acts 14.19

...he is referring to the scars of persecution, both physical and emotional. These scars make it clear who own Paul's life. There is no need to add any others.

Samuel Ngewa

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church

Colossians 1.24

NOTHING Lacking in Christ's AFFLICTIONS to ACCOMPLISH our Salvation
He SHOUTED VICTORIOUSLY from the Cross "It is Finished!"

Quotient of AFFLICTIONS to ANNOUNCE Salvation NOT YET Fulfilled
MORE MARTYRS will be CROWNED to Finish the Preaching of the CROSS

Today 50 COUNTRIES – Actively MARTYRING believers in Jesus Christ
Since 1950 – avg 250,000 Christians KILLED for their FAITH Each Year
Last 150 years More KILLED for Christ / Than all Previous 1800 yrs Before

What is there about the cross of Christ which angers the world and stirs them up to persecute those who preach it?...the cross tells us some very unpalatable truths about ourselves, namely that we are sinners under the righteous curse of God's law and we cannot save ourselves.

John Stott

b. Accomplishment through 'Failure'

IF Everything is GOING RIGHT – Something is GOING WRONG

Jesus: “Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets”
 Luke 6.26

v. 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.

Christians FOLLOW MURDER Victim, MARTYR: 12 Apostles ALL Killed TOO

AUTHOR of this LETTER > HEAD delivered on CAESAR'S PLATTER
 FOUNDER of the Faith invites FOLLOWERS to Come and DIE with HIM!
 WORLD was Connected to the LAW of Moses > Paul DONE with BOTH

world has been crucified to me > CRUCIFIED to World / NO DEALINGS with It

WORLD as Way of Life APART from Jesus Christ has NOTHING to Offer Paul
 FOUND No LASTING Satisfaction in ANYTHING the World has to Offer
 POSSESS World but do NOT have Christ you are EMPTY – NOW and Eternally
 HAVE Christ and NOTHING ELSE World Offers > You have EVERYTHING

and I to the world > DEAD in the EYES of World > REGARDED a FOOL!
 He was NON-ENTITY – OPINION did not Matter – EXISTENCE Not Important

World HATES Christ's MESSAGE – World KILLS Christ's MESSENGERS

...the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age
 Galatians 1.4

For the present form of this world is passing away. 1 Corinthians 7.31

Paul is saying his conversion to a belief in a crucified messiah entailed an enormous transvaluation of values, and an adoption of a new paradigm of what God was really doing in the world, how he was doing it, and therefore what the

believer's life meant.
Witherington III

Ben

Tim Keller > PERCEPTIVE Non-Christian WOMAN in NEW YORK CITY:
If God does ALL to Save Me – and I CONTRIBUTE NOTHING to be Saved
Then there is NOTHING he CANNOT Ask of Me – He DESERVES All of Me!

c. Alive by Faith

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

Paul's COUNTER to FALSE Teaching is NOT to Criticize Circumcision
FACT is Paul HIMSELF was Circumcised > But his TRUST was in CHRIST

Neither of these two outward states is now important, or even relevant. R. Alan Cole

NEITHER being JEW or GENTILE REALLY MATTERS Ultimately
NATIONALISM is TEMPORARY STATE > Being ONE in Jesus is ETERNAL
NEW > HUMANITY – WAY of LIVING – LOOKING at EVERYTHING
NEW CREATION is NOT INDIVIDUAL Experience > New COMMUNITY

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away;
behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5.17

LIVE in LAST DAYS that the Prophet ISAIAH Looked TOWARD...

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create...” Isaiah 65.17,18

APOSTLE JOHN tells us that IN JESUS it is DONE DEAL...

And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Revelation
21.5

People ADD Rules & Regulations to GOSPEL to Gain ACCEPTANCE with God

Others say CERTAIN EXPERIENCES are Necessary for True Blessing of God
 Others say Special EDUCATION is Needed to Really Know God Properly
 Need insights of PASTOR or TEACHINGS from Particular SEMINARY

PRIMARY Targets of Galatians? NO GOOD to POINT Fingers at OTHERS
 ANYONE who DEPRECIATES JESUS as ONLY Savior – tries to Supplement
 Or MINIMIZES the POWER of HOLY SPIRIT – to Bring a NEW CREATION

It was nearly impossible for a God-fearing Jew to fathom embracing God's truth without following the law of Moses. But Paul contended vigorously that the law of Moses had come to its completion in Christ and the Spirit. Scot McKnight

NEW CREATION > No DISTINCTIONS btwn Cultures, Countries, Colors
 ALL FALLEN into Sin > All CAN BE FOUND by the Searching SAVIOR

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

CUSTOMARY to use SCRIBE – Writing Important Letters - Expensive Parchment

Documents: All Capital Letters, No Space Between Words, Word-Wrap before PC

I Tertius, who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord. Romans 16.22

Paul COULD Write – Takes PEN for AUTHENTICATION and EMPHASIS
 NOT Professional SCRIBE > More used to Writing SEMITIC Words, Not GREEK

LARGE Letters: EYE Trouble that NECESSITATED his Extended Stay in Galatia

“to arrest the eye and rivet the mind” J.B. Lightfoot

SEE My LETTERS > READ my WORDS > UNDERSTAND this MESSAGE!
 Are you BOASTING in CIRCUMCISION or in the CROSS?
 Are you ESCAPING from PERSECUTION of EMBRACING it with Christ?
 Are you FORCING People to RULES or REJOICING in Christ's FREEDOM?

Do LIVE Under OLD Covenant System or the LIBERTY of the NEW Covenant?

v. 14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...

...the most fundamental thing Paul wants his audience to understand and embrace is not the experience of the Spirit or even justification but rather the cross...it was the very essence of the Gospel, the very means of salvation.

Ben Witherington III

d. Agenda is Freedom

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

ISRAEL of God? Letter to Romans > Not all Israel is TRUE Israel
WHOEVER FOLLOWS this Rule IS the ISRAEL of God > Peace, Mercy
Paul LONGS for the DAY when ALL ISRAEL will be Saved – Romans 11.26

What is ISRAEL Today? Little Nation with STAR of DAVID on their FLAG?
Surely in EYES of United Nations THAT Political State is TRULY ISRAEL
NOT what Apostle Paul thinks is REAL ISRAEL of GOD

v. 16 - Hotly DEBATED by Christians – What is ISRAEL of God?
Some – Paul saying BYE-BYE to the Jews in Galatia ONLY?
AGAINST Grain of Entire Letter – Jew & Gentile NOW ONE in Christ

Those who WALK by the RULES are those who WALK in HOLY SPIRIT of God

TRUE Israel of God BOAST in CRUCIFIED MESSIAH, NOW Rules in Heaven
TRUE Israel of God Men, Women, Slave, Free, Jew, and ARAB

For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God

Ephesians

2.18,19

NEW Israel – Gentile Christians know UNIMPORTANCE of Uncircumcision
Jewish Christians understand IMPORTANCE of INWARD, REAL, FAITH

Church of Jesus Christ: Jew, Gentile, Slave, Free, Male, Female = ISRAEL of God

Luis Palau > Mission in ARGENTINA > Well Organized, Sophisticated, Upscale Very HUMBLE Poor Man came for Min Training – Poor Clothes, Simple Speech

Very SINCERE and EAGER > Could Not Turn him AWAY – Included Training TEAM ready to PRESENT Gospel and FOLLOW Up for OUTREACH to City

Very IMPORTANT Leader of City UNEXPECTEDLY Came to Meeting Place Said he would like to TALK About Faith in God > Everyone a bit SHOCKED Humble Man saw Great Opportunity > Jumped Up & Escorted Dignity into Office

LOCKED the Door and the Other Team Members PANICED > What will he DO?

POORLY Educated – Humble Dress – Simple Speech with Prestigious Man? After LONG Time come out TOGETHER > Exchange BIG Embrace VIP Leaves Next Day VIP Returns with 3 Other VIPS from their City

Christian VIP's Jump Up to Meet and Help these Dignitaries, Invite into Office VIP "No, we would like meet with the man I spoke with Yesterday!"

Humble Man jumps up and Takes into Office and LOCKS the DOOR Again LONG Time Come out & Team Member INVITES all to Meet their New Brothers

e. Achievement is Forever

v. 18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen. PAUL has VENTED – CALMED Down – Ends w/ Fatherly CONCERN MORE than just GOOD-BYE > Wishes them GRACE

BAD Grammar > Good Theology: Plural Pronoun 'Your' / Singular Noun 'Spirit'

Galatian church SINGLE Entity – ONE Body – TRUE Israel of God in JESUS AMEN = PRAYER – Paul DONE – Did his Part to Help, Now God must Heal

On this note of peace the battle-scarred veteran ends the tortured letter. R. Alan Cole

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” Revelation 5.12

Last 150 years More become Christians / Than all Previous 1800 yrs Before

Galatians 6

11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. 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. 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. 16 And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

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.

...you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. James 4.16 (3.5, 1 John 2.16)	"Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 1.31 (3.21)
God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this...Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Romans 3.25,27 (4.2, 11.18)	Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast. Hebrews 3.6
They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful... Romans 1.29,30 (2 Peter 2.18)	What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not? 1 Corinthians 4.7

<p>He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. 1 Corinthians 1.28,29 (3.21, 5.6,</p>	<p>Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! 1 Corinthians 9.16</p>
<p>they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage. Jude 16 (Revelation 18.7)</p>	<p>Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God. 2 Corinthians 1.12</p>
<p>Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast 1 Corinthians 13.4</p>	<p>I had boasted to him (Titus) about you, and you have not embarrassed me... so our boasting about you to Titus has proved to be true as well. 2 Corinthians 7.14</p>
<p>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2.8,9</p>	<p>For even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than pulling you down, I will not be ashamed of it. 2 Corinthians 10.8 (11.10, 12.1)</p>
<p>There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful... 2 Timothy 3.1,2</p>	<p>among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. 2 Thessalonians 1.4 (Philippians 2.15,16,</p>