

The Glory Of The Cross



"But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (Galatians 6:14).

The Bible, in a very real sense, is one book. It is, as its name implies, "The Book." The Bible has one theme; it tells one story. Its theme is the redemption of mankind, the chief character is Christ, and its main event is the crucifixion.

I. The Power Of The Cross

The heart of man's sin problem is pride. The Cross has the power to defeat our pride! What is it that you glory in? The cross has the power to humble us, expose us, lead us to what really is important!

It is not pleasant to have our sins and faults pointed out to us but that is what the cross does to us. It convicts of our sins! It shows how terrible and hideous sin really is and when you picture the sinless Son of God hanging up on that rugged cross bleeding, suffering and dying we are humbled!

II. The Offense Of The Cross

But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus (Romans 3:21-26)

Jesus paid it all! (Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21) This is the offense of the cross! It smacks at man's pride, merit, and esteem. Man is guilty; man is "on charity." Man cannot conceive of, buy, build, earn, or merit his own salvation. This humbles us.

It is very difficult for us to grasp the offense of the cross! To the Jew it was a stumbling block, to the Gentiles foolishness (1 Corinthians 1). No man can glory in himself when He sees Jesus hanging on the cross for Him. All we can glory in is grace!

III. The Glory Of the Cross

Paul's purpose in ministry is found in 1 Corinthians 2:2, "For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." In other words, to glorify God and His Son Jesus Christ. Why would Paul glory in the cross?

First, he knew the person of the cross. Jesus Christ captivated Paul and it was Christ who made the cross glorious to him. Second, he knew the power of the cross which became the very foundation stone of his message: "Christ died for our sins." This meant freedom (liberty) from self (Galatians 2:20), the flesh (Galatians 5:24), and the world (Galatians 6:14). In Jesus we have the victory over the world!

The cross is a test for all of us. What does the cross do to us? Is it our glory or our offense? Will you accept what Jesus did on the cross or reject it? Paul gloried in it, boasted in it, shouted it and exalted it! Will you (Acts 20:24)?