



Paul's Epistle to Galatia

Galatians 6:14 – Boasting in the Cross of Christ

- **Review: *Gal 6:11-13 – Motives in Legalism***
 - Paul wrote this section in large letters because of urgency of message.
 - Circumcision is only a badge of legalism, not a new life in Christ.
- ***Galatians 6:14 - But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.***
 - Notice that this powerful verse is bookended by the legal flaw of circumcision.
 - *But God forbid* is also translated as *But may it never be* – strong language.
 - *God forbid (mē)* is a disjunctive participle, expressing a choice between two mutually exclusive possibilities.



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- What does it mean to *boast*?
 - *to glory in* – also used for the *flesh* in *verse 13*.
 - How do we know when we are *boasting in the flesh*?
 - How important is *our* in this verse?
 - In contrast, what is *boasting in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ*?
 - *Phil 3:3 - For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,*
- This is the 3rd time in the epistle that Paul reflects on the importance of the cross.
 - Let's consider how the *cross (crux)* was viewed in those days.
 - Horrible and unmentioned Roman society and yet Paul boasted in how the cross changed his life.
 - *Gal 2:20 - "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live.*
 - Positional or conditional?
 - *has been crucified* is perfect passive indicative – put to death!



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- How should we interpret *world* or *world system*?
 - Strong – ‘worldly affairs; the aggregate of things earthly; the whole circle of earthly goods, endowments, riches, advantages, pleasures, etc., which, although hollow and frail and fleeting, stir desire, seduce from God and are obstacles to the cause of Christ.’
 - Inseparably aligned with the flesh!
 - Paul was well-versed in the things of *the world* (*kosmos* – one word).
 - » *Phil 3:4-6 - If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*
 - How then was the world (e.g. law system of Israel) crucified to Paul?
 - » *Phil 3:7-10 - But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss (damage) for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss (damage) for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish (dung), that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.*



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- In the beginning of this epistle, Paul stated the following:
 - » *Gal 1:3,4 - Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,*
 - Has *the world system* really been put to death and is no longer there, or is it that there is no lasting value?
 - Can we therefore have no pleasure in anything that is of the *world*?
 - How should we then interpret *and I to the world*?
 - We should no longer seeks to please the world or be defined by it?
 - Again, positional vs. conditional?
 - Darby – ‘It is not self that we glory in when we look at the cross of Christ: one is stript of self. It was He who hung upon that cross who was great in Paul's eyes. The world which had crucified Him was thus seen by the apostle in its true character; the Christ who had suffered on the cross in His likewise. In that cross would the apostle glory, happy, by this means to be dead to the world, and to have the world ended, crucified, put to shame, as it deserved to be, for his heart. Faith in the crucified Son of God overcomes the world.’

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1 Corinthians 15:1-4

**“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 6:14 KJV

Jesus sent Paul • Romans - Philemon