

GOD FORBID THAT I SHOULD GLORY SAVE IN THE CROSS OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST! (Gal 6:14)

Why would Paul make that Statement? Why would he *GLORY* in the instrument of Christ's death?

If you read Chapter 6 of the Book of Galatians, you will see that Paul was speaking to the problem of those who were "glorying" in the *FLESH*—the outward appearance of righteousness.

AGAIN - WHY THE CROSS? ISN'T IT A CURSE?

Paul explains its importance to us:

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." (Gal 3:13)

WELL, IF IT MADE JESUS A CURSE, WHY TALK ABOUT IT ALL THE TIME?

Simply because it was at that very place in time and on that very Cross, that the forgiveness of our sins and the way to our salvation was purchased by Christ actually becoming a Curse for us.

PAUL'S SIMPLE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL

Paul brought the very core of the whole Gospel to the pagan city of Corinth. He said this about it:

"For I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified." (I Cor. 2:2)

Therein was the *FULL POWER* of our Savior's love for you and me. It comes back to His actual, physical death on the cross. Without it, the Gospel is watered down to "the curse of the law" and man's own works of righteousness.

THE GRACE OF GOD

Paul said, "I do not frustrate the grace of God; For if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain." (Gal. 2:21)

Yet, although the Scriptures deal directly with this foolish notion, some people (and churches) still try to bring in their own sets of *Laws and Ordinances* so that through obedience to them, they will be righteous in God's sight.

Yet, however noble these acts of obedience are, we are told in Romans 3:10 that "There is none righteous, no, not one." We are all under the curse of the law, and there is only one way to be set free from it. And Jesus walked that way. It was to Calvary.

YOU DIDN'T MAKE THAT TRIP

No matter how hard you may try to add to that walk to Calvary, you didn't make that trip. Jesus made it for you.

We are told that almost all the Apostles died martyrs' deaths quite similar to Christ's. Yet, without the Cross of Christ, they, too, would have died in vain.

PAUL PREACHED THE CROSS

"For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the Gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God!" (I Cor. 1:17, 18)

THE LAWS WERE ABOLISHED AT THE CROSS

"And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; "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 bis cross*;

"And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it." (Col. 2:13-15)

YES, JESUS WAS YOUR SIN OFFERING AT THE CROSS

"Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

"For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh;

"How much more shall the blood of Christ who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Hebrews 9:12-14)

WE ARE SANCTIFIED AT THE CROSS

"Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God... By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." (Hebrews 10:9, 10)

WE ARE RECONCILED TO CHRIST AT THE CROSS

"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.

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

"In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight." (Col 2:20-22)

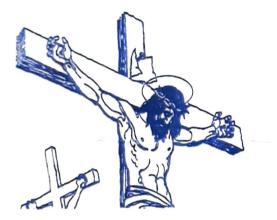
WE HAVE ACCESS TO GOD AT THE CROSS

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh." (Hebrews 10:19-20)

WHAT A PROMISE!

Praise God! What a promise! But notice that our access to God came "by the blood of Jesus." Don't let *anyone* deny you that precious gift He freely gave!



BEWARE THE ENEMIES OF THE CROSS

Paul, whose doctrine was centered on the cross, instructed the church to follow his example. He warned:

"For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ;

"Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is their shame, who mind earthly things." (Phil. 3:18, 19)

AT THE CROSS, AT THE CROSS

There is no better way to sum up the place of the Cross in the life of the Christian church than the words of that Hymn of our faith,

AT THE CROSS:

Alas! and did my Savior bleed, And did my Sov'reign die? Would He devote that sacred head For such a one as 1?

Was it for crimes that I have done He groaned upon the tree? Amazing pity, grace unknown, And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide And shut His glories in, When Christ, the mighty Maker died For man the creature's sin.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay The debt of love I owe; Here Lord, I give myself away, 'Tis all that I can do!

At the cross, at the cross Where I first saw the light, And the burden of my heart rolled away, It was there by faith I received my sight, and

Now I am happy all the day!

IN HIS NAME

In His Holy name, we invite YOU to come to the Cross of Calvary and set your soul at rest. Jesus is there. He stands at the door of your heart and knocks. Won't you let Him in?



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