

FREEDOM

(For FREEDOM Christ has set us free! Gal 5:1)

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, Dec 19/20, 2015

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“Gospel Boasting” Galatians 6:11-18

The Cross is the symbol of the Christian faith, the crux of human history, a stunning revelation of the love & justice of God giving to us a life most people only dream about.

“The Cross is the blazing fire at which the flame of our love is kindled, but we have to get near enough for its sparks to fall on us.”

– John Stott

Why Is Understanding the Cross so Important?

V14 “But far be it from me...” This is an incredibly and intensively strong negative. What he says is, “I absolutely, under no circumstances, ever, ever, ever will do anything but this.” 1Cor2:2

- **What matters most is not so much what Jesus told us to do, but what Jesus came to do.**
- **The Main thing that Jesus came to do was to die.** Matt16:21-23; Every one of the Gospel accounts is predominantly about Jesus’ last week (The Cross). Luke10:45
- **This is what you need to understand not only to become a Christian but also to grow as a Christian.** Eph2:8-9; 2Pet3:18

How Do You Know You Understand the Cross?

V14b “...to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...”

This means to joyfully celebrate that I am totally and completely saved by Christ’s works not my works.

- **You have wrestled with and felt the offensiveness of the cross.** V12 (false teachers were preaching a works righteousness so) that they may not be persecuted for the Cross of Christ... Gal5:11 the offense of the cross; Matt11:6; 1Cor1:18
- **The Cross is the greatest monument to our wickedness and utter inability to save ourselves.** Rom3:23, 6:23
- **It offends liberals by saying it’s the only way and it offends conservatives by saying that your best efforts aren’t enough.** John14:6; Matt11:25

Once You Understand the Cross, How Does It Transform Us?

V14c “...by which the world has been crucified to me, I to the world.”

- **If you are boasting in the cross the world has no power over you.**
- **If the world has power over you, you have to ask yourself, “What am I boasting in besides the cross of Jesus Christ?”** Gal6:13 “...they (false teachers) desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh.”
- **How do I overcome the world? I must regularly fill my mind with the beauty and the value (through spiritual disciplines) of who Christ is and what He has done for me until my heart is rejoicing, resting & relaxing its grip on anything else it thinks it needs.** John16:24, 33; 1Jn4:4, 5:5

GROWING NOTES

1) As we come to the end of the book of Galatians there’s one thing Paul wants his readers to know as a summary of what He has been saying, it’s this: The Cross (v14)! Why is the Cross so significant to the message of grace? What are your thoughts about the introductory statements of this sermon? Read Galatians 6:11-18.

2) Why is understanding the Cross so important? Why do you think what Jesus came to do is more important than what He tells us to do? What was the main thing that Jesus came to do (Mark 10:45)? Why do we need to understand the cross not only to become a Christian but to also grow as a Christian?

3) How do you know you understand the Cross? How is the cross offensive? What is the cross the greatest monument to? How does the cross offend both liberals and conservatives?

4) Once you understand the Cross, how does it transform us? Why does the world have no power over us when we boast in the cross? How do you know when the world has power over you? How do you overcome the world? Pray.