

# Grace Mail

Boasting. If we are honest, most of us do it from time to time. Yet, we are uniformly disgusted when other boast. The Apostle Paul writes to encourage the Galatians to boast in the Cross of Christ instead of in human accomplishment.

## **Boast In Christ (part 1) – Galatians 6:14**

*“But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”*

What is interesting about this statement of Paul’s is that he, more than anyone else, could have had reason to boast in the Galatians. The Greek word translated “boast” means *to display or proclaim publicly (and ostentatiously) a satisfied contentment with one’s own or another’s achievements*.

Paul spent a lot of time investing in these believers. He led them to Christ and preached the gospel to them. However, Paul desires only to boast in Jesus Christ. This is not to say that his actions with the Galatians were not good, right, and beneficial. There is a simple reality in the Christian life. Everything we accomplish is only through the grace, mercy, and power of God! This means that we have no ability to boast in our own “accomplishments”. We do not actually have any. Therefore, Paul does not and cannot boast in what he has done.

Using some of the strongest language possible, Paul refuses to boast in anything other than the Cross of Christ. The phrase, “God forbid” is also translated “may it never be”, and “certainly not”. This is an emphatic statement. There is one thing that Paul will never do. He will never boast in himself or others. He will not proclaim satisfaction with his own achievements! Instead, Paul boasts in the Cross. Why? Because through the death of Christ on the Cross we have been crucified to the world.

The Cross is an instrument of death. That is its purpose. The Cross of Christ was used to put Jesus to death. When we trust in Christ, we participate in that death. This means that we die with Christ. This theme is extensively explored in Paul’s writings (*Col. 3:3*).

Paul takes the concept of us having died with Christ and applies it to the need to die to sin and live new lives.

Next week we will get into what it means to be crucified to the world. For today, let’s dwell on this thought. I don’t boast in myself, I boast in Christ and in His Cross because it is through the Cross that I have been set free. My freedom is not given so I can live for myself. I am now free to live for the glory of Jesus Christ.

May we glory in the Cross as we live for the one who died on it!