

WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE



Galatians 6:11-18--May 26th, 2024

Sermon Recap:

What Matters Most

John Stott says, "There is no Christianity without the cross. If the cross is not central to our religion, ours is not the religion of Christ." The Christian faith is centered upon to cross. To end his letter, Paul passionately presents to contrasting motives for faith:

I. Boasting in the Flesh

The false teachers/legalist were pushing the Galatians to circumcision. In doing so they were boasting in the flesh. They were boasting in their own efforts, their own success, their own strength.

They were motivated by...

a. Seeking the Praise of Men

- "want to make a good showing in the flesh." They desire popularity. They want the applause. Avoiding hard truths to draw a crowd.

b. Seeking an Easy Life

- They do not want to "be persecuted by the cross of Christ." They avoided the scandal of the cross and instead focused on encouraging, "how to" messages, seducing the church to trust themselves.

c. Living in Hypocrisy

- They pressed obedience to the law. But who decides which laws take precedent?
- The law demands perfect obedience and even the false teachers weren't perfect, but instead, making themselves to be hypocrites by requiring what they couldn't do.

d. Seeking Feathers for Their Cap

- "they desire to have you circumcised they may boast in your flesh." They wanted to look good based on what they had convinced others to do.

Any time we trust in ourselves more than God, worship ourselves first, live ungodly lives, or avoid the truth of the cross/gospel in order to avoid shame, persecution, or hardship we will inevitably boast in ourselves.

II. Boasting in the Cross

Paul is motivated solely by the cross. Everything that he is and does flows from the cross. (1 Cor. 2:1-2)

a. Three Crucifixions

- Christ is crucified for our sins, as a substitute to satisfy the wrath of God in order to reconcile us.
- "the world is crucified to me"- it has nothing to offer you now that you have Jesus.
- "I am crucified to the world"- now that you follow Christ, you are dead to the world that once embraced you.

b. New Creation

- Just as Christ did not stay in the tomb, you who are crucified with Christ are also resurrected to life as a new creation.
- As a new creation everything is different. You now walk "by this rule" (according to the Spirit), pursuing Christ and holiness and not to gratify the flesh.
- New Creation is the only thing that matters.

Discussion Questions:

- What is the Christian faith based upon?
- What was the motivation behind the false teacher's push for circumcision?
- What was Paul's motivation?
- What is Paul's main emphasis in 6:11-18?
- :What does it mean to "boast in the cross?"-
- Explain the three crucifixions in verse 6:14.
- What does Paul say is most important?
- What does it mean to be a "new creation"?
- How does one become a "new creation"?

Application:

- Do you ever avoid the cross/gospel in order to avoid forms of persecution, embarrassment, or hardship? In what situations/temptations are you most prone to do this?
- Do you think this leads to you boasting in the flesh?
- Are you are new creation? If so, how can you remind yourself of that? If not, what do you need to do?
- How has the world been crucified to you? How do you respond to that?
- How have you been crucified to the world? How do you respond to that?
- What matters most to you?

