



There's Got to be Another Way

RELATE

As you look back on Sunday's sermon, what stands out to you as particularly helpful, difficult, or insightful?

What from the last week are you stressed about? For what are you happy or grateful?

Are you more likely to feel proud for doing right, working hard, being smart, or living well?

READ & REFLECT

Galatians 2:21-3:3 **1 Corinthians 1:18-31** **Philippians 3:17-21**

Galatian Christians had slipped back into legalism, believing their efforts to keep the law and observe Jewish rituals were crucial to their salvation. How does this reveal they had taken offense at the cross? What argument does Paul use to show them the futility of this approach?

What are ways we can slip into current beliefs and practices about what it means to be a good person in order to reassure ourselves? How do we know we've gone beyond doing something because it's good, and seeing it as something that makes us good in God's (or others') eyes?

The Corinthians' pride in their intellect and the "wisdom" of their great philosophers made the cross laughable to them (1 Cor. 1:23). How does God's plan for salvation compare to human plans (1:25)?

Why did God deliberately choose things considered offensive, foolish, and worthless to save us (1 Cor. 1:26-31), rather than what we value? What does this ensure about everyone in heaven?

Imagine there was no cross, no blood, just everyone "getting to heaven" by their own path, on their own merits, goodness, intellect, and willpower. What would heaven be like?

Paul tearfully warned the Philippian Christians to imitate him rather than those whose behavior showed they were really "enemies of the cross of Christ". What did they do, and what god did they follow? How did this make them enemies of the cross?

Why do people need so badly to find a way other than the cross to justify themselves? What underlies being offended that there is nothing we can do to earn God's acceptance and favor?

How can we discern when we're offended or embarrassed by the cross? How do we think of ourselves and act with others when we're proud of it?

RESPOND

Next Step Check yourself for self-justification, pretension, and self-indulgence. What needs to go?

Reflect May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Galatians 6:14