

# “Glory Only in the Cross!”

*Galatians 6:11-15*

**Intro.** – Of what are you most proud? Want to encourage you to think for a moment of something or someone of which you are most proud. I have people and things that get my mojo going. How about you?

Whatever you thought and whatever it is, we’ll all find a way of bringing such up in our conversations. Case in point, Mary in an effort to help me be a better preacher tells me I need to “chill out” with the car illustrations...

With this in mind, we look to the apostle Paul. He had but one thing in which he was totally absorbed and engrossed. Now, Paul was the type of personality who could have been engaged by several matters. His heritage and citizenship could have been one area he was most proud... His accomplishments in education and church work... He even could have been all wrapped up in the sufferings he endured for Christ and His Church, BUT, he counted this and everything else as nothing.

Paul was proud, using the term in its Biblical sense, of one thing. He was totally wrapped up, absorbed in and engrossed by one thing. He was proud of the Cross of Christ – *“But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

*Purpose: to learn better our need to be totally wrapped up, absorbed in, and engrossed by the Cross*

The message of the Cross is not popular...; nevertheless, it is the only message/thing we need/can glory in! Why? The following three points will develop and accomplish the purpose of this sermon:

## **I Tells the Depth of HUMAN SIN**

- the real depth of Christ’s Cross is seen as it reveals the intensity of human sin – Romans 7:13  
*“...Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death through that which is good, that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.”*
- A. Modern Examples of Sin’s Depths
  1. Not excluding the fact each of us wrestle with sin... We see glaring examples of human sin daily...
  2. Over 50,000 alcohol related auto deaths... (Orange County medical examiners are now saying 9 out of 10)...
  3. 1.5 million abortions a year in the US alone...
  4. Marriage/home are under a barrage of attacks... marriage has become a mockery... modern home has become a joke under society’s mandates...
  5. We read and hear of murders, muggings and attacks daily...
  6. Injustices every day – Illus. – Redding, CA man fell through skylight in school building while burglarizing it. He sued and got a lump sum of \$250,000.00 and \$1,200 @ month for life.
  7. These and others like it are but scratching the surface of sin’s depths.
- B. Cross Real Example of Sin’s Depths
  1. Christ died for our sins – 1 Corinthians 15:3
  2. We all have sinned and fallen short of the glory/holiness of God – Romans 3:23 etc.
    - a. act committed against God – 1 John 3:4
    - b. good act omitted – James 4:17
    - c. act done without faith – Romans 14:23
    - d. act done in thought – Matthew 5:27-28
  3. Multiply your sin by population of the world today and then – then we begin to see and understand the depths of human sin.

But note: this isn’t the only reason Paul gloried in the Cross:

## **II Tells the Height of GOD’S LOVE**

- remember having discussions as a kid as to the biggest things in the world...
- Illus. – Texan and Alaskan discussing who was the biggest...

- sin is 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest thing in the world – only thing bigger is Christ’s love

A. Love Doesn’t Count the Cost

1. Illus. – child taken to emergency room and Dr. says surgery necessary. Parents aren’t going to sit around negotiating the cost involved... Love doesn’t consider the cost!
2. God defined love and illustrates this aspect of love by none greater means than Christ’s Cross.
3. Love just doesn’t count the cost when there are no alternatives!

B. All Investments Aren’t Gambles

1. Some investments are gambles from the start and some aren’t even investments – rat holes!
2. Nothing God does is a gamble...
  - a. each thought, act, command of God is filled with purpose and intent.
  - b. never better shown than in Christ’s Cross
3. Christ’s Cross is God’s investment in us:
  - a. He did this knowing many (most) would totally reject His gift of grace...
  - b. He did this knowing others would accept, but then would backslide and eventually forsake...
  - c. He did this knowing most could not care less if they give any *return* upon this investment.
4. Romans 5:8 “*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*”
  - Illus. – fire broke out in the home of Manny/Maggie Gazz of Lauras, SC. All six kids and parents got out safely so Manny went for help... But, 9 year old James Eric heard his dog Bridgett barking. James went in and never came back out. Later, Manny Gazz said, “Eric loved his dog. I guess he loved her so much it cost him his life.”
5. God loves us so much it cost His Son’s life!

Listen, the Cross tells the height of God’s love. No wonder Paul gloried in the Cross alone!

**III Tells the Extent of GOD’S GRACE**

- popular view – Christ died for only a select few (limited atonement)...
- Paul glories in Cross of Christ not because the its affect was limited to a few, but because it is intended for ALL!...

A. God’s Eternal Desire

1. To be at fellowship with man...
2. To forgive and be at fellowship again...

B. God’s Love for Justice/Holiness

1. Outstanding attribute of God = His justness... His righteousness...
2. God loves holiness and righteousness as much as He loves man!
3. Thus, in order to forgive man, our holy God had to have a righteous/holy way to forgive you/me!

C. Christ Died for All

1. Christ’s death makes it possible for God the Father to fulfill His eternal desire...
2. Christ’s death makes it possible for God the Father to forgive you and me and yet remain true to His righteousness and holiness...
3. In Christ’s death we see God’s hatred for sin, love for man, and His sovereign grace:
  - a. saved BY grace... THROUGH faith... AT Baptism... FOR good works...
  - b. forgiveness of sin is offered to all who accept God’s gracious GIFT

Because the cross demonstrated the extent of God’s grace – forgiveness offered to everyone as a gift – Paul gloried only in the Cross of Christ!

**Conclusion:** What then is our response? In conclusion, don’t we view the Cross the same way Paul did:

1. The Depth of Human Sin
2. The Height of God’s Love
3. The Extent of His Grace

Three faithful missionaries went to Mahatma Gandhi during one of his extended fasts. Gandhi requested they sing a hymn. "Which one?" they asked. He responded, "The one that expresses all that is deepest in your faith." They thought and then began singing this hymn written by Isaac Watts:

"When I Survey the Cross"

When I survey the wondrous Cross,  
On which the Prince of glory died.  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down,  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Won't you come, accepting God's grace extended through the Cross of Christ? Won't you come just now glorying only in His Cross?!