

Christ, Our Glory

1 Cor. 1:27-2:2

What If It Does Not Work?

We live in a day and age when self-promotion is standard. Yet the moment we turn our attention away from Him and on to ourselves, we end up the losers. Self can never satisfy self.

To boast and glory is to place one's confidence in something or someone. It also has the idea of highlighting or making much of something. The Scripture speaks of three areas in which we should boast.

I. To boast of Jesus Christ and the cross (1 Cor. 1:27-2:2)

Paul is reminding his audience that God's evaluation of an individual is far different than anything we could possibly imagine.

"Jesus Christ and Him crucified" is our only boast. If we ever say it is "Jesus Christ plus something," or "the cross of Jesus Christ plus something," we are saying He is not enough. May it never be!

Think with me of Ephesians 2:6-10 (v.7). You and I will be placed on display as trophies of His grace. This same principle is seen in Revelation where as recipients of crowns we throw them back to Him who alone is worthy.

If heaven is all about Him, why would I think this moment is all about me? If Jesus is the centerpiece of time and eternity, why would I boast in anything other than Him?

II. To boast of Grace (1 Cor.s 15:10)

Paul's language says that he worked harder than everyone else did. Now I do not know if this was an idle boast, but Paul's record is impressive and I do not think he was too far off the mark. Paul obeyed God. Yet notice Paul's language (and for whatever reason, we are constantly tripping over this). He said, "I outperformed everyone," yet what we fail to see is his qualifier, "yet not I, but the grace of God with me."

Paul uses the strongest contrasting conjunction available to him. It is the same language of Galatians 2:20 and Philippians 2:12, 13.

We cannot separate our obedience from His working. **Our obedience is nothing less than the outworking of Him in us and through us.** Let us make much of His grace and the outworking of it in us and through us.

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III. To boast of my weakness (2 Cor. 11:23-30; 12:9)

The word infirmity means, frailty, feebleness, and weakness. Are we hesitant to say that we are frail, fragile, feeble, and weak?

God is magnified against a background of weakness. Jesus Christ is magnified against a background of weakness. Grace is magnified against a background of weakness. To boast in my infirmity reflects the truth that I am boasting in God alone, in Jesus Christ and the cross alone, and in grace alone.

The closer you move to truth the more intense the battle. As you learn these truths, your focus will begin to shift from you to Him. Your focus will be off yourself and on Him.

Friend, today see your self in Him, claim His victory, and let your boast be in Him.