

Soli Deo Gloria

Bellefield
Presbyterian
Church
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Preaching Today—
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4. The Highest Reason to Boast Only in the Cross: The Glorification of the Lord Jesus Christ Thru Us

Isn't it amazing according to *Gal. 6:14* that Christ died for His Own glorification? The Word says "May it never be that I should glory [or boast, or exalt] except in the Cross by which the world was crucified to me, and I to the world." Christ died on the cross, so that a disciple's highest exaltation would be in His Cross. That is, Jesus died so that His Cross would be glorified, esteemed, & honored by our joy-

ful exalting in it—by our "glorying" in it. But there's more: it's not just *our* exalting in it as some private insular church, but rather that the *whole world* exalt in Jesus' Cross: that is our ministry & mission, to spread a fuller joy in Jesus' Cross & so *magnify* His glory.



Not just for us, but
for the whole world.

How to Respond to *God's Word* Today:

- Make this paradigm shift: Take time to reflect & muse, to see today that *every* blessing of your life in 2008, and all of 2009, is to be traced directly to Christ's Cross. His Cross is not just a matter of your salvation, it is *everything*.
- If the above is true, shouldn't you spend time with Jesus daily? Tell somebody about Him this week? And since His Cross is so powerful, shouldn't you rejoice in everything?
- What is your biggest boast today? Will you trace that boast to your first boast: & *boast* in the Cross?



Connect with Today's New Years Sermon

This One Thing for 2009— *Boast Only in the Cross**

Gal. 4:16 You don't have to know a lot of things in order to make a difference for the Jesus as His disciple. But you do need to know a few things that are great & be willing to live for them & to die for them. People who make a difference are not necessarily those who have mastered a lot of things. They are students,

mothers, fathers, butchers, bakers and candlestick makers who themselves have been mastered by a very few things that are very great. Like the picture that hung in one home above the breakfast table: "*Only one life to live, 'twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last.*" Live right: boast in His Cross.

Grandmothers Ruby & Laura

Grandmothers Ruby & Laura were both in their 80's in 2000. They were killed in Cameroon while

servng the Lord Jesus in missions. Their car's breaks gave way & over the hill they

went. Is this a tragedy? It is sad, but it is *not* a tragedy, for to them, to live & die, was Christ.

Soli Deo
Gloria

01/11/09

Worship



Sermon Moves at a Glance:

- ☺ Take Paul's passion & boast only in the Cross & know —
- ☺ All blessings of 2008 & 2009 flow from it;
- ☺ You would have nothing without Christ's Cross;
- ☺ Jesus has chosen to be glorified in our exalting in His Cross—and in our owning in 2009 His ministry & mission to others.

1. Take on Paul's Biblical Passion as Your Own

In **Acts 20:24** Paul says, "I don't count my life of any value, nor as precious to myself; if only I might finish my course and ministry I have received from the Lord Jesus; to



Just One Thing!

preach the gospel of the grace of God." There it is again: the Bible tells us: *You don't have to know a lot of things, just one thing to make the greatest difference in your & other's lives.* It's the same in **Philippians 3:7**. It's 1 great passion and 1 great consecration to the cross of Jesus. Just this one great super thing for BPC for 2009!

Paul's Passion Is A Shocking Boast—Only in the Cross!

Gal. 6:14 shocking for two reasons. First, a passion to boast only *in the cross* is like saying, "I exalt in lynching" or "I exalt in the electric chair." It's strange to say that if you're going to boast, boast in

one thing only: the execution of Jesus the Son of God under the horrible pain-inducing device of a cross & getting crucified there. **It's like saying, "I exalt in the electric chair."**

Paul's Passion Is a Shocking Boast—Only in the Cross

Gal. 6:14: "But may it never be that I should boast, *except* in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...." Shocking, 2ndly, for doesn't Paul boast in more? If so, what



Boast *only* in the Cross of Christ.

does "only" mean then? It means that for the Christian, all other boasting should be a boasting in the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. Everything derives from this grace.

2. Boast Only in the Cross for All of 2008-9 Blessings

Gal. 6:14 declares that *when Jesus died, He purchased for sinners everything they enjoy that is not part of their condemnation.* Everyone—students & professors, mothers & fathers—*all* are sinners. So the only thing every one

of us deserves is divine wrath. In the first and final analysis, that's it. So every beat of your heart, every joyful sight of your eyes, every hug from a friend,



All joys are blood bought

each healing from illness, all is a blood bought gift which none of us would ever have if Jesus had not died on that horrible cross. Can we see life this way?

3. Boast Only in the Cross: It's Everything for 2008-9

My heart's desire is that all of us would see this New Year why our life views should be cross-saturated. I fear we have a theology of the cross that

says it has only to do with Bible study, or evangelism, or with missions, when in fact, the Cross of Jesus is *everything*. We all would have nothing, absolutely

nothing, but judgment if it weren't for the Cross. We are all doubly in Dutch, so very undeserving.

Every good that we have flows from His cross.

Boast Only in the Cross for All Are *Doubly* in Dutch

First, we are all creatures, not the Creator. God made us; He is not beholden to us. We have absolutely no rights over against

God. He has all rights over us. 2ndly, we are sinners, and we must not water this down.



God is Creator, not us.

Sin in the Bible is viewed vertically as dishonoring God. We usually view it horizontally.