

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE GALATIANS

BOAST IN THE CROSS

Galatians 6:14 "But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

Who would want to boast about a cross, especially one used by the Romans to administer capital punishment? Looking a bit more closely at the Greek word that is used in Galatians 6:14 from which is translated "boast" gives a better understanding of what St. Paul has in mind. The Greek word means, "to express an unusually high degree of confidence in someone or something being exceptionally noteworthy."

With this Greek word in mind, one can much better understand how St. Paul could write that he boasted in the cross of Jesus Christ. He also exhorted in 1 Corinthians 1:31, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." He had such confidence because by means of the cross the world had been crucified to him, and he to the world. (Galatians 6:14)

Not everyone agrees with Galatians 6:14. Note what St. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:23-24, "Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." The truth remains, if there is no crucified Jesus Christ there is no forgiveness of sins, eternal life or salvation. God chose the crucifixion of His Son as the only path for the atonement, the payment, the remission of your sins.

In what or in whom do you place your confidence? In a list I found on the internet suggesting ten things to do to become more confident the emphasis was totally upon "self" and the things one can do to be more confident. How foolish! But, through your confident faith in Jesus and in His crucifixion for your salvation, your confidence is anchored on the bedrock of God's love for you and Jesus' cross as God's instrument for your salvation. In the cross and in the one who died on Calvary's cross you can confidently boast.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, fill my heart with the confidence of faith to trust in Jesus."
Amen.

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.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

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?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all!
(LSB 426)