

Easter Friday message 14/4/17
The Victory of the Cross

¹⁴ But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

Galatians 6:14-15

Introduction:

Paul could boast about many important things in his life but he considered the cross of Jesus of far greater value than anything else in his life. “*God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ*”.

Philippians 3: 4-7 - *4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. ⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ*

He could boast about many things:

- a) His social standing in Israel: he belonged to the tribe of Benjamin
- b) Religious status – a strict, Law-abiding, zealous Pharisee.
- c) His high education – he studied at the feet of Gamaliel (Acts 22:3)
- d) He was a Roman citizen (Acts 22:27-29)

However, Paul wanted to boast about the cross: about what the cross established for us. **1 Corinthians 2:2** - *For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.*

1. The cross established forgiveness

Colossians 2:13-14 - *¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*

There was a statement of debt that we couldn't pay but Jesus did and nailed it to the cross.

2 Corinthians 5:21 - *²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

2. The cross established reconciliation

Colossians 1:19-21 *¹⁹ For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. ²¹ And*

you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

2 Corinthians 5: 18 - *Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,*

3. The cross established redemption from the curse of the Law

Galatians 3:13-14 - *¹³ Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree), ¹⁴ that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

The curse of the Law was threefold: Spiritual death, sickness and poverty. Jesus redeemed us from the curse but He never abolished the blessings of Deut.28.

4. The Cross established victory over satan

Thank God that the cross was a place of victory!

John 12:31 - *Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.*

Colossians 2:14-15 - *having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.*

Hebrews 2:14 - *Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,*

Conclusion

The cross was a wonderful place of victory. We should boast in the cross – in everything that it established for us. Everything Jesu accomplished, He did for us.