

# Galatians 6:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

## Analysis

**But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.** Paul's magnificent contrast! "But God forbid that I should glory" (emoi de mē genoito kauchasthai, ἐμοὶ δὲ μὴ γένοιτο καυχᾶσθαι)—but may it never be that I boast! Emphatic denial. "Save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (ei mē en tō staurō tou kyriou hēmōn Iēsou Christou, εἰ μὴ ἐν τῷ σταυρῷ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ)—except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul's sole boast is Christ's cross—the instrument of shame becomes his glory.

"By whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world" (di' hou emoi kosmos estaurōtai kagō kosmō, δι' οὗ ἐμοὶ κόσμος ἐσταύρωται κάγω κόσμῳ)—through whom the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. Perfect tense: accomplished reality with continuing effects. The cross severed Paul's connection to the world-system. He's dead to the world's values, priorities, acclaim; the world is dead to him—he no longer seeks its approval or fears its opposition. This is radical freedom: living solely for Christ's glory, crucified to all worldly motivations.

## Historical Context

Boasting (kauchaomai) was central to honor-shame culture. People boasted in achievements, status, lineage. Paul boasts exclusively in Christ's cross—the

ultimate shame transformed into ultimate glory. The cross was Rome's most degrading execution for criminals, slaves, enemies. Jews saw crucifixion as divine curse (Deuteronomy 21:23, 1 Corinthians 1:23). Paul glories in this! Why? Because the cross accomplished salvation, revealed God's love, demonstrated Christ's sacrifice, broke sin's power, reconciled the world. The cross makes worldly boasting absurd: if God's Son died for sinners, what can humans boast about? This cross-centered life revolutionized values completely.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. Is the cross of Christ your exclusive boast, or do you boast in accomplishments, status, religious performance, or other things?
2. What does it mean practically that 'the world is crucified to you, and you to the world'?
3. How does meditation on the cross transform your values, ambitions, and fears regarding worldly approval and success?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐμοὶ δὲ μὴ γένοιτο καυχᾶσθαι εἰ μὴ ἐν τῷ  
that I But God forbid G1096 should glory G1487 God forbid G3361 in G3588  
G1698 G1161 G3361 G2744 G3361 G1722

σταυρῷ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ δι' οὗ ἐμοὶ<sup>τῷ</sup>  
the cross G3588 Lord of our Jesus Christ by whom that I  
G4716 G2962 G2257 G2424 G5547 G1223 G3739 G1698

κόσμῳ ἐσταύρωται κἀγὼ τῷ κόσμῳ  
the world is crucified and I G3588 the world  
G2889 G4717 G2504 G2889

## Additional Cross-References

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**Romans 6:6** (Cross): Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

**Galatians 2:20** (Cross): I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

**1 Corinthians 2:2** (Salvation): For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

**Philippians 3:3** (References Jesus): For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

**Romans 1:16** (Salvation): For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

**Galatians 5:24** (Cross): And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

**1 Corinthians 3:21** (Glory): Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are your's;

**1 Corinthians 15:58** (References Lord): Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

**Psalms 49:6** (Parallel theme): They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;

**Ezekiel 28:2** (References God): Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:

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