

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 κάγὼ 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

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

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

ἐμοὶ	δὲ	μὴ	γένοιτο	καυχᾶσθαι	εἰ	μὴ	ἐν	τῷ
that I	But	God forbid	G1096	should glory	G1487	God forbid	in	G3588
G1698	G1161	G3361		G2744		G3361	G1722	
σταυρῷ	τοῦ	κυρίου	ἡμῶν	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ	δι'	οὗ	ἐμοὶ
the cross	G3588	Lord	of our	Jesus	Christ	by	whom	that I
G4716		G2962	G2257	G2424	G5547	G1223	G3739	G1698
κόσμῳ	ἐσταύρωται	καὶ	γὰρ	τῷ	κόσμῳ			
the world	is crucified	and I	G3588	the world				
G2889	G4717	G2504		G2889				

Additional Cross-References

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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