



**SERIES: WE ARE FREE (A Study of Galatians) December 2022 – January 2023**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Wednesday, 1/25/23**

**Scripture: Galatians 6:14-18**

**TITLE: Boast in Jesus**

What would you say if I approached you and started bragging? Well that probably depends on what I was bragging about. Right? If it was about a brand-new sports car you probably would understand. If it was maybe my 6-pack abs, that I don't actually have, you might get it.

But what if I were to come to you and start bragging about the bald spot on my head or what if I bragged about, not my 6 pack, but my belly? Or what if I came and told you how poor I really am and about the negative balance in my checking account? You would probably think I had lost my gourd.

But do you know that the apostle Paul found great comfort and healthy pride in the most humiliating place? It's true. Well, where should we find our confidence and pride? The answer might surprise you! Let's look at Galatians chapter 6 beginning in verse 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. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

You see Paul recognizes that the only thing he can claim to as a source of confidence and pride is not his good looks or his knowledge or his accomplishments or any other human feat. He says the only thing that I will boast or brag about is the cross of Christ.

You see I think this is why so many people run from Christianity. It's why the Jews didn't recognize Jesus as the Messiah. They were looking for a conqueror. They were looking for someone who would overthrow the government. They were looking for a King Saul in stature and a Tony Robbins in charisma. But instead the Messiah would be a suffering servant who would conquer our sin by dying the most humiliating and excruciating death possible. Paul knew in order to become new he must crucify the old. He knew in order to live he had to die first.

Today if you are struggling, chances are it's because you are too confident or too dependent upon your own ability to do life well. That's why Paul said neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything. No we're not hacking away the skin on our bodies as in Paul's day. But we are still trying to please God and to earn the accolades of people around us only to fail them, to fail God, and to fail ourselves.

If you are sick and tired, it's time to give up and cling to the cross of Christ. If you are tired of feeling like a failure, if you are tired of struggling with guilt, if you are tired of feeling like you're never good enough, put down your pride and allow God's grace to overwhelm you, overtake you, and transform you.

Jesus said, "I live so that you may live." No matter what it is you've done, no matter what it is you failed to do, God's grace is sufficient for you. Cling to the cross and allow God to truly make you new.

When we do this the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is with us. That is exactly what I want and thankfully it's exactly what I need.

My challenge for you today: Remember your true source of pride is in Christ alone. Christ saved you by grace and is changing you today because He is good, and we are not.