

IN WHAT DO YOU GLORY?

By Jerry L. Henderson

A person either glories in the flesh or in God. There is no neutral territory. Matt 6:24 says you can't serve God and mammon (material things or things of this life jlh). So, an individual is serving one or the other. If we are serving God, we are glorying in the cross of Christ. Paul in Gal 6:14 "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...". There is a song with the words "In the Cross of Christ I glory". So, in what do you glory? I am not asking: do you believe "in" the cross; do you accept the fact of the cross; or are you sentimental about the cross? I am asking "do you **GLORY IN THE CROSS**? The word "glory" means to boast, or rejoice in. Webster's on-line dictionary definition is: public praise, honor, and fame. Strong's Greek Dictionary uses the words: boast, glory, joy, and rejoice in his definition. I am not using the word "Cross" in sense of the physical pieces of wood on which Jesus was crucified, but the suffering and death of our Lord that the cross represents.

The supreme test regarding this question is: what do you think of the cross? Is the "cross", that is the death and suffering of Jesus the Christ an offense to you. Paul suggests that it was an offense to the Jews because through the cross the requirement of circumcision came to an end Gal 5:11. In 1Cor 1:23 Paul said the crucifixion of Christ was a stumbling block to the Jews. Paul said he determined not to know anything except Christ and Him crucified 1Co 2:2. These passages show us the attitude and feeling we should have toward the cross of Christ, that is, His crucifixion. It is the cross that divides all mankind into two groups.

To those who are perishing: the cross is a great offense. It is a stumbling block, something to be laughed at, or dismissed as mere foolishness 1Cor 1:20-25. It is an offense to the human mind. It is nonsense - not according to human philosophy Col 2:6-10. People refuse divine revelation then wonder why they can't find the meaning of life. The cross is an offence to man's Pride. The root cause of the cross being offensive is man's vanity. The cross says we are sinners which the proud will not accept. Pride says: "I'm not so bad, at least not that bad". Whereas, Jesus says he came to save that which was lost Lk 19:10 and Paul declares in Rom 3:23 that all have sinned. This makes stubborn man angry and he refuses to accept the cross of Christ.

However, to the Christian the cross is his glory, he rejoices in it. Paul in Gal 6:12-15 says it is our boasting. The cross is not just something that happened. It is our salvation and we rejoice as a result. We glory in the cross because it shows us the most amazing spectacle ever seen. We see the glory of God being revealed in the events surrounding the cross of Christ. We see the Father loving us Jhn 3:16; the Son of God dying for us Rom 5:8; Jesus taking our place in death 1Pet 2:21-24; the just one dying for the unjust 1Pet 3:18. In the cross we see Jesus the Lord of glory humbling himself; making himself of no reputation and becoming obedient even unto death Phil 2:3-8. God's love for mankind was the motivating factor of the cross Rom 5:6-10.

All that the cross encompasses was and is for us, that is, for all mankind. Therefore, the cross is either all or nothing to you. If the cross is all to you then you are doing and will do whatever Jesus, your Lord requires of you. So, what is your reaction? Is your reaction the same as that of the publican in Lk 18:13 "God be merciful to me a sinner". Or is your reaction one of "So what I'll live the way I want to"? The first reaction will cause one to "glory in the cross", the other will cause one to "take offense to the cross".

Eternity is getting closer with every breath we take. The only way to make life eternal sure for us is to accept the benefits of the cross of Christ, that is, His suffering and death on that physical cross that makes eternal life available to every person. We must "glory" in the cross of Christ. If we glory in the cross of Christ it will show in our lives, we will be letting our light **SO** shine that others can see our "glorying in the cross of Christ" Matt 5:16.