

# **If I Boast, Let It Be In The Cross!**

## **If I Boast, Let It Be in the Cross**

**Key Text:** Galatians 6:14 (NASB 1995)

**Supporting Texts:** Romans 2:23; Philippians 3:4–11; Galatians 3:13; Colossians 2:14; John 3:16; 2 Timothy 1:9; Luke 23:43; Ephesians 1:7; 1 John 1:9; 1 John 2:1; 1 Corinthians 15:22, 55–57; Philippians 2:6–11; Hebrews 12:2

---

### **Introduction**

---

The apostle Paul writes, “But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Galatians 6:14). In a world that boasts in achievement, pedigree, and performance, Paul narrows his confidence to one thing only: the cross. In sharp contrast to boasting in law-keeping or fleshly credentials, Paul glories in the place of Christ’s suffering and shame—because that is where God accomplished our salvation.

To first-century Jews and Romans, the cross was not a badge of honor. It was a symbol of disgrace, humiliation, and death. Roman citizens were not crucified. Cicero called it unmentionable in polite society. Scripture says, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree” (Galatians 3:13). And yet Paul says, “This is my boast.” Why? Because in the cross we see God’s great paradox and our only hope.

---

### **I. The Cross: God’s Great Paradox**

---

#### **A. An instrument of death that gives life**

- The cross was designed to take life, not give it.
- Yet through that very instrument, God grants eternal life.
- “Having canceled out the certificate of debt... He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross” (Colossians 2:14).
- What Rome used to kill, God used to save.

**Application:** Do not measure God's power by appearances. God brings life out of death.

B. The darkest day that revealed the Light of the world

- Darkness covered the land as Jesus hung on the cross.
- Yet Jesus is "the Light of the world," and His light shines brightest at Calvary.
- The ugliest act of human hatred became the clearest display of divine love.

**Warning:** When men reject Christ, they reveal the darkness of their own hearts.

C. The greatest sin that became the greatest cure

- Men committed the greatest crime by crucifying the Son of God.
- God used that very act to provide the cure for sin.
- "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55).
- The cross led to the empty tomb and the defeat of death.

**Encouragement:** No sin is greater than the grace displayed at the cross.

D. The victory that came through surrender

- Jesus "emptied Himself... becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:7–8).
- Because He humbled Himself, God highly exalted Him (Philippians 2:9–11).
- He conquered by yielding, and He reigns because He obeyed.

---

## II. The Cross Declares That My Life Is Not Futile

---

A. God's love gives life meaning

- "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16).
- The cross proves you are not an accident and not forgotten.
- You are the object of God's saving love.

## B. Salvation rests on God's purpose, not our performance

- “Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace” (2 Timothy 1:9).
- The cross anchors our worth in God's grace, not in our résumé.

**Application:** Stop measuring your life by worldly success. Measure it by the cross.

---

## III. The Cross Declares That My Failures Are Not Fatal

---

### A. Christ's blood provides real forgiveness

- “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses” (Ephesians 1:7).
- The cross answers the guilt of sin with the grace of God.

### B. Christ is our Advocate when we stumble

- “If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1).
- He does not excuse sin, but He intercedes for sinners who repent.

### C. God promises cleansing to the confessing heart

- “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).
- The cross does not encourage sin; it provides restoration.

### D. Grace reaches even to the last hour

- To the thief, Jesus said, “Today you shall be with Me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43).
- When the Lord makes a promise, He keeps it.

**Encouragement:** Your failures are not the end if you walk in repentance and faithfulness.

---

## IV. The Cross Declares That My Death Is Not Final

---

### A. Resurrection is grounded in Christ's victory

- “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive” (1 Corinthians 15:22).
- The Christian hope is not a refurbished world, but a new heaven and a new earth.

### B. Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before Him

- “Fixing our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before Him endured the cross” (Hebrews 12:2).
- He looked beyond the suffering to the glory at the Father's right hand.

### C. The cross assures our future with God

- When Jesus said, “It is finished,” God's plan of redemption was completed.
- Those who die in Christ will rise to live eternally with Him.

**Application:** Live now in light of eternity. Do not trade future glory for present comfort.

---

## Conclusion and Call to Action

---

The cross shows us how much God hates sin and how much He loves sinners. It is the center of our faith, the ground of our hope, and the anchor of our confidence. Paul said, “May it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.” That must be our confession as well.

If you are not a Christian, come in obedient faith—confess Christ, repent of sin, and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins. If you have wandered, return in repentance and prayer. Look again to the cross, and let it steady your steps and renew your hope.

---

## Slide Deck (12 Slides)

---

### Slide 1 — If I Boast, Let It Be in the Cross

#### **Main Content:**

- Galatians 6:14
- One boast, one hope
- The cross at the center

#### **Scripture (if applicable):**

- Galatians 6:14

#### **Design Intent:**

- Background tone: light
  - Emphasis: serious
  - Mood: reverent
- 

### Slide 2 — The World Boasts in the Wrong Things

#### **Main Content:**

- Law-keeping
- Credentials
- Fleshly confidence

#### **Scripture (if applicable):**

- Romans 2:23
- Philippians 3:4–6

#### **Design Intent:**

- Background tone: neutral

- Emphasis: instructive
  - Mood: challenging
- 

### Slide 3 — The Cross Was a Symbol of Shame

#### **Main Content:**

- Reserved for criminals and slaves
- A sign of curse and humiliation
- Unmentionable in polite society

#### **Scripture (if applicable):**

- Galatians 3:13

#### **Design Intent:**

- Background tone: light
  - Emphasis: serious
  - Mood: sobering
- 

### Slide 4 — God's Great Paradox

#### **Main Content:**

- Death that brings life
- Shame that brings glory
- Defeat that becomes victory

#### **Scripture (if applicable):**

- Colossians 2:14

#### **Design Intent:**

- Background tone: light
  - Emphasis: instructive
  - Mood: thoughtful
- 

## Slide 5 — The Darkest Day, The Brightest Light

### **Main Content:**

- Darkness at the cross
- Jesus is the Light of the world
- God's love displayed

### **Scripture (if applicable):**

- John 3:16

### **Design Intent:**

- Background tone: warm
  - Emphasis: hopeful
  - Mood: encouraging
- 

## Slide 6 — The Greatest Sin, The Greatest Cure

### **Main Content:**

- Men crucified the Son of God
- God used it to defeat sin
- Death lost its sting

### **Scripture (if applicable):**

- 1 Corinthians 15:55–57

**Design Intent:**

- Background tone: light
  - Emphasis: triumphant
  - Mood: confident
- 

## Slide 7 — Victory Through Humility

**Main Content:**

- Jesus emptied Himself
- Obedient to death
- Exalted by God

**Scripture (if applicable):**

- Philippians 2:6–11

**Design Intent:**

- Background tone: light
  - Emphasis: instructive
  - Mood: reverent
- 

## Slide 8 — The Cross Says My Life Is Not Futile

**Main Content:**

- You are loved by God
- You are not forgotten
- Grace gives life meaning

**Scripture (if applicable):**

- John 3:16
- 2 Timothy 1:9

**Design Intent:**

- Background tone: warm
  - Emphasis: hopeful
  - Mood: reassuring
- 

Slide 9 — The Cross Says My Failures Are Not Fatal

**Main Content:**

- Redemption through His blood
- An Advocate with the Father
- Forgiveness through confession

**Scripture (if applicable):**

- Ephesians 1:7
- 1 John 1:9; 2:1

**Design Intent:**

- Background tone: light
  - Emphasis: pastoral
  - Mood: encouraging
- 

Slide 10 — Grace Reaches the Repentant

**Main Content:**

- Promise to the thief
- God keeps His word

- Mercy is real and personal

**Scripture (if applicable):**

- Luke 23:43

**Design Intent:**

- Background tone: warm
  - Emphasis: hopeful
  - Mood: comforting
- 

Slide 11 — The Cross Says My Death Is Not Final

**Main Content:**

- Resurrection in Christ
- A new heaven and new earth
- Eternal life with God

**Scripture (if applicable):**

- 1 Corinthians 15:22
- Hebrews 12:2

**Design Intent:**

- Background tone: light
  - Emphasis: hopeful
  - Mood: confident
- 

Slide 12 — Our Only Boast

**Main Content:**

- Not in self
- Not in works
- Only in the cross of Christ

**Scripture (if applicable):**

- Galatians 6:14

**Design Intent:**

- Background tone: light
- Emphasis: decisive
- Mood: reverent