

BOOK OF GALATIANS

“Boast in Your Flesh”

Scripture Reading: GALATIANS 6:11-13

-) **SLIDES 1-6.** Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7.** Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 8.** Today we continue in our expository study of the Book of GALATIANS. This is message #46. I have titled today’s message *“Boast in Your Flesh”* (6:13).
-) Beginning here in v11 and going through the remainder of this chapter and letter, the apostle Paul brings us the conclusion of this letter in the form of a brief summary. He began the letter by talking about false teachers bringing a false gospel of works (circumcision). And he ends this letter talking about those same false teachers and their motives for doing so.
-) **SLIDE 9.** First, let’s look at v11. It appears, at first, that this verse comes out of nowhere. But it doesn’t. It actually fits perfectly. I’m going to give you three possible reasons why Paul included this line in his summary (overlap).
-) **SLIDE 10.** It is believed that Paul had an **EYE** problem (4:15). Remember that he was beaten almost to the point of death in Lystra which is a city of one of the Galatian churches.
-) **SLIDE 11.** By saying he penned this letter, could make it carry more **WEIGHT**. In today’s working society, we know that a letter written by our immediate boss does not carry as much weight as a letter written by the CEO of the company. In the eyes of the Galatians, this could make this letter seem extremely important and carry more weight.
-) **SLIDE 12-16.** Just as an aside. We know that Paul penned at least five of his letters.

-) **SLIDE 17.** But we also know that Paul did not pen all of his letters. The letter to the Romans was penned by Tertius.
-) **SLIDE 18.** He wants to make a **STRONG** point by using large letters. Even though the other two reasons have merit and could be true to some degree, I believe reason #3 is the best reason for Paul writing this verse.
-) **SLIDE 19.** We do this today, don't we? When I want to make a point or bring your focus to certain words in a verse, I use bold and underline. Sometimes I may use all caps. Perhaps Paul wanted to make a strong point by using large letters.
-) Did he write this entire letter in large letters? I doubt it. Parchment paper and ink were a premium commodity in those days. They were very expensive. He may have just written this conclusion (v11-16) in large letters. We don't know.
-) But even with all this said about Paul's writing and penning letters, it is WHAT he writes that is important. Amen? So, let's look at the remainder of our text.
-) **SLIDE 20.** GAL 6:12. Two main themes run through the conclusion of this letter. 1) "*The desire to make a good showing*" and 2) "*they will not be persecuted.*" Today we will focus on "*the desire to make a good showing*" and then next week we will conclude this expository study of the Book of GALATIANS with "*they will not be persecuted.*"
-) False teachers have motives for doing what they do. There are many motives. And they all center around self.
-) **SLIDE 21.** 2 PETER 2:2-3. It could be financial (filthy lucre – I want your money).
-) **SLIDE 22.** 1 PETER 5:2-3. It could be for authoritative power (be submissive and just do what I say).
-) **SLIDE 23.** GALATIANS 6:12. It could be for popularity (look at what I have accomplished).

-) **SLIDE 24.** Popularity. One thing I can say with certainty. Narcissists have always been a part of society. What is a narcissist? Webster.
-) And these false teachers in Galatia were narcissists.
-) Many of the Pharisees in the time of Jesus were narcissists too. They were self-centered and had an exaggerated sense of self-importance. And Jesus had no problem calling them out and calling them hypocrites. Let's look at their narcissism.
-) **SLIDE 25.** MATTHEW 6:2. In their giving they wanted to be honored by men.
-) **SLIDE 26.** MATTHEW 6:5. In their praying they wanted to be seen by men.
-) **SLIDE 27.** MATTHEW 6:16. And in their fasting they wanted to be noticed by men.
-) In their giving and praying and fasting, they wanted to be honored, seen, and noticed by men. *"Look at me!"* That, my friends, is a narcissist. They weren't called narcissists back then. This word only came into being in 1917.
-) And the mild and meek and loving and sweet Jesus is calling them names. He calls them hypocrites. *"Jesus, You can't do that. That's hate speech. You know, Jesus, that there are special interest groups today who although they preach tolerance will not tolerate your kind of talk."*
-) And the truth took Jesus right to the cross. And we are told to take up our cross too. Taking a stand like Jesus is not popular today. Get ready folks. Persecution is coming.
-) **SLIDE 28.** So, what about these false teachers in Galatia? It's pretty straight-forward. They were boasting about their accomplishments. They convinced many in the churches at Galatia that circumcision was a requirement for salvation.

-) It's almost as if they were saying, "*I saved all those people from damnation by telling them they must be circumcised. If it wasn't for me correcting the false teaching of Paul, all these people would be hopelessly lost. Look at what I have done! Aren't you glad I showed up?*"
-) But, unfortunately, it is just the opposite. Their false teaching of contributing human works to the work Jesus has already done is a false gospel. And those who teach and believe a false gospel are anathema—eternally condemned. Paul is right and these false teachers are eternally wrong.
-) **SLIDE 29.** And Paul wants to bring to everyone's attention that in true narcissistic form these false teachers are hypocrites because by forcing the people to keep the Law, they do not keep it themselves. And just like the Pharisees, they want to be honored by men, seen by men, and noticed by men.
-) In today's world, we see a similar thing going on. Pastors want to look good in the eyes of the congregation, in the eyes of other churches and pastors, in the eyes of the denomination, and in the eyes of the community.
-) I'll share this with you. When I was an associate pastor in the Nazarene Church, we had to report numbers to the district. Numbers of how many people were attending church every Sunday morning and throughout the week. Numbers on how many people were baptized. Numbers of how many people were saved under our pastoral leadership. And numbers of how much money the church brought in.
-) And I'll be perfectly honest with you. With some churches (not all), it became an unspoken competition. Who could have the biggest church and the richest church and save the most people church in the district? And these numbers would be published on a regular basis for all to see. And it became competitive. And that was one of the many reasons why I had to depart from that church and that system.

-) Churches like that just want to boast in your flesh. “*What you do makes me look really good.*”
-) Quite often I run into friends from former churches who ask me if my church is growing. I know what they are looking for. They want to know if this congregation has gone from 25 to 250. Numbers are not and never have been my concern. I will focus on the truth and the depth of the doctrine I teach, and trust that God will focus on the breadth of the people who show up. It’s really that simple.
-) Does a pastor or teacher you know do what they do to make a good showing (and that would include me)? If a pastor or a teacher in a church today is focused on money, power, or popularity, then there is a very good chance that pastor is also a false teacher. Just like those false teachers in Galatia.
-) And, if so, there’s a 100% chance that pastor or teacher is a narcissist.
-) The focus is never on a person, a pastor, or a teacher. The focus is always on the cross of Jesus Christ. And that’s where we will go next week and finish this exciting study of this Book of GALATIANS.

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