

"Things To Glory In"

Text: **Jeremiah 9:23-24**

"Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD."

Introduction:

-Definition: To glory in something means to praise, and honor, to exalt with joy, to rejoice over.

-Today, people glory in many things.

-i.e., Their achievements - noble peace prize, Pulitzer prize, academy awards (Oscars), Grammy Awards, Emmy Awards, Miss America, Miss Universe, etc.

-Sports – Olympics – Gold Medal, Stanley Cup - Hockey; Super Bowl - Football; World Series - Baseball; NBA championship - Basketball.

-Education - Ivy League Colleges - Harvard, Yale, Princeton; Rhodes Scholar.

-Position - Doctor, Lawyer, President, CEO, Congressman,

-Wealth - Billionaire - Microsoft's Bill Gates.

-Our society in general has tendency to elevate and defy man.

-i.e., The Pope; Mother Theresa; Jessie Jackson, JFK & Kennedy Family; Princess Diana; Billy Graham; Martin Luther King; Bill Clinton.

-Our society glories in man's so-called advancements.

-But the Bible tells in Psalm 39:5 - "verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity."

-The so-called Bible Fundamentalist crowd is guilty of glorying in the things of man.

-i.e., The number of souls a person wins; The size of a work (how many a church is running on a Sunday); The physical size of the church facilities; The titles that men hold.

-It is no longer an honor to be called pastor now everyone has the title Dr. So and So.

-All you have to do is pick up one of these Bible Fundamentalist periodicals and it nothing but a "brag rag"!!!

-i.e. "We have the largest Sunday School in America".

- "We had over 5,000 professions of faiths and baptized over 3,000"

- "Come to this conference because Dr. So and So the world's greatest evangelist will be there"

-And it just goes on and on and on.

-What does God think about all of this?

-Jesus makes it very clear what God thinks about all of this in Luke 16:15,

"...for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God."

-In our study I want us to look at according to the Word of God, things God wants us to "Glory In."

I. "Glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" - Galatians 6:14.

"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."

-The Apostle Paul tells us we are to glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

-Why?

-Paul speaks of the cross as the finished work of Christ for the salvation of the mankind and its affect on the Christian.

-Affect on the Christian:

*The believer is crucified with Christ in the present.

"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."

*The world is crucified to the believer for it is dead and lies under the wrath of God.

*The believer is crucified to the world, for he has been ruined in relation to it.

**Jesus said in John 15:18-19 - "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

**There is a hymn that goes -"This world is not my home, I'm just a passing through. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue."

*And the believer is a savor of death unto death (2 Cor. 16) to those who love the world (2 Tim. 4:10 - Demas).

*The believer smells like death to this unsaved of this world because he reminds them of their eternal destiny, the second death - "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."

-Why should the Christian Glory in the cross.

-Because the cross is what the believer is to preach.

-It is the power of God unto salvation.

-1 Cor. 1:17-18 - "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

-Because it brings reconciliation with God for both the Jew and the Gentile.

-Eph. 2:13-16 - "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:"

- Because peace with God is made for the sinner.
- The sinner is no longer an enemy of God.
- Col. 1:20 - "And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven."

II. Glory in our infirmities - 2 Corinthians 11:30

-The Apostle Paul said 2 Cor. 11:30 - "If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities."

-Then Paul tells us why we should glory in our infirmities in 2 Cor. 12:7-10.

-v. 9 - "the power of Christ may rest upon me"

-v. 10 - "for when I am weak, then am I strong"

-This is certainly counter to the philosophy of the world.

-The Word of God tells us the weaker that you are in the flesh the more Christ shall be able to use you.

-Why? - Because self, the flesh, the old man is out of the way.

-This ties in with what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1:25-29 - "Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence."

-Christian, Glory in your infirmities!

-So, the power of Christ will be able to rest upon you! Amen!!

-Christ does not want you to glory in your vile flesh.

-He does not want you to do things for Him in your flesh.

-He wants you to let Him to live through you!!!

III. Understanding and knowing the Lord - Jeremiah 9:23-24

-" But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me,..."

-Note in Jeremiah 9:23, God tells us what not to "glory in" - "Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:"

-The unsaved glory in their wisdom, their might, and their riches.

-According to the Word of God the unsaved lack spiritual understanding and knowledge.

-1 Cor. 2:11-14 - "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now

we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

-Why should the believer glory in spiritual understanding and knowledge?

-Because he has the truth, the Word of God according to John 17:17 - " Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

As a result of having the truth the believer is free from sin and the bondage of the world.

-Jesus said in John 8:32 - " And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

-Why glory in the spiritual understanding and knowledge?

-Because it gives you wisdom that the world does not possess.

-As a result you have more understanding than the great minds of this world.

-The Psalmist declared in Psalm 119:99-100 - "I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts."

-Why glory in spiritual understanding and knowledge?

-So, you can reap the benefits that the Lord has to offer.

-Jer. 9:24, the Lord says - "I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth:"

-I do not know about you but I want to reap all the Lord's lovingkindness and righteousness that I can get.

-Further, I want to avoid the Lord's judgment.

-How do you do that?

-By doing things that please God?

-You can only know what pleases God by having spiritual knowledge and understanding.

Conclusion:

-In our brief study we have seen three things we are to "Glory In".

1) The cross of Christ

2) Our infirmities

3) Spiritual knowledge and understanding

-My dear friend the Bible is very clear about what you and I are not to "Glory In" and what we are to "Glory In".

-The bottom line is that we are not to glory in the things of the flesh.

-Do not glory in what you did in the flesh.

-Remember, what the Bible says in 1 Peter 1:24 - " For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:"

-We are to glory in the things of the Spirit, the things God does through us.

-Jesus said in John 6:63 - " It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

-My friend let me ask you - "What are you glorying in?"

-Galatians 6:8, reminds us that , " For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

-The scriptures are very clear.

-If you glory in the flesh then you will reap corruption.

-If you glory in things of God then you will reap life everlasting.