

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expositional Study of **The Gospel According to Luke**
Chapter 9- Luke 9:46-56

184- The Nature of True Greatness- Part 1

November 4, 2012

Luke 9:46-56

46 An argument started among them as to which of them might be the greatest.

47 But Jesus, knowing what they were thinking in their heart, took a child and stood him by His side,

48 and said to them, "**Whoever receives this child in My name receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me; for the one who is least among all of you, this is the one who is great.**"

49 John answered and said, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name; and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow along with us."

50 But Jesus said to him, "**Do not hinder *him*; for he who is not against you is for you.**"

51 When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem;

52 and He sent messengers on ahead of Him, and they went and entered a village of the Samaritans to make arrangements for Him.

53 But they did not receive Him, because He was traveling toward Jerusalem.

54 When His disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?"

55 But He turned and rebuked them, [and said, "**You do not know what kind of spirit you are of;**

56 **for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.**"] And they went on to another village.

To the Glory of God

I hope you will agree with me this morning that in order to love deeply and fully and profoundly- there are things you must deeply hate. And that without genuinely hating in the Biblical sense of that word- it is impossible for you to truly love. For example- the Holy Bible says in **Psalms 97:10a:**

Hate evil, you who love the LORD...

Proverbs 8:13 says

**The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way
And the perverted mouth, I hate.**

And **Amos 5:15** says:

**Hate evil, love good, And establish justice in the gate! Perhaps the LORD
God of hosts May be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.**

So God says to hate those things that He Himself has called “evil” if you want to truly love what He has called “good” and “right”. So from this we see that God is the One Who defines what is “good” and God is the One Who defines what is “evil”. And it is possible- because we are fallen creatures- for us to call “good” something that God has called “evil” and for us to call “evil” what God has clearly called “good”. The prophet Isaiah wrote this in **Isaiah 5:20&21:**

20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes And clever in their own sight!

So it is clear that we must learn from God- from His Word- what things God hates and what things God loves so that we may be in alignment with God. And so in order for us to love what God loves- the Bible says that we must learn to hate what God hates.

And I could think of several examples. To love children deeply you must hate any mistreatment or neglect that destroys them. So if in your worldview- there is room to hack babies to death or burn them alive in

their mother's womb or abuse them after they are born- and there is no genuine hatred in you for those barbaric acts- then I would suggest that the logic of Scripture is that it is impossible for you to love children on a deep and abiding and consistent level.

If you love clear-headed kindness and respect and forthright decision making- then it is correct and proper for you to hate alcoholism and drug addiction. So if in your worldview there is room for you to get high or drunk- and you do not despise those sinful actions- then God says it is impossible for you to love clear headedness except on some shallow level.

If you love and cherish freedom- then it is a requirement that you have to hate slavery and totalitarianism. And to hate slavery and totalitarianism means you reject it in all its forms and you work to end it wherever it is found- or you simply prove that in spite of all your rhetoric- you really do not hold dear the freedom you espouse.

Now the reason that I start with these observations is because I am about to tell you something that God hates. And I know that the word "hate" has taken on all kinds of false and misleading connotations lately. But I want you to realize from the very outset- that God's hatred is always the reflex of His Love.

So the only reason why *anybody* should hate *anything*- especially someone who lays claim to being a true believer- is because that thing replaces or ruins something beautiful and wonderful that God said is "good" and "worthwhile" and "true" and "lovely". True Biblical hatred should *always* stand in the service of true Biblical Love. So if you hate *anything*- it should only be because you love something else infinitely more and what you hate- *minimizes* or *neglects* or *fights against* the good thing that is *deserving* of love, respect, admiration, and awe.

So when I tell you that God hates something- I want you to hear that hatred as the echo of His Love. So the one true living God- Who is revealed in the Scriptures- hates what He hates- only because it replaces or ruins something He has blessed and called "good".

Now the Bible teaches repeatedly and very clearly that God hates human pride.

- ✓ **Proverbs 6:16–17** says, "**There are six things which the Lord hates, seven which are an abomination to him . . .**" and the first one mentioned is "**haughty eyes.**"

- ✓ In **Psalm 101:5** David speaks for God and says, "**No one who has an arrogant heart will I endure**"
- ✓ **Proverbs 16:5**, **Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; Assuredly he will not be unpunished.**
- ✓ **Isaiah 2:11**, **The proud look of man will be abased And the loftiness of man will be humbled, And the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.**
- ✓ **Jeremiah 50:31**, **Behold, I am against you, O arrogant one, Declares the Lord God of hosts; for your day has come, the time when I will punish you.**
- ✓ Jesus said in **Luke 16:15**, **"You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.**
- ✓ And in **The Acts 12:23** it says that an angel of the Lord struck Herod so that he was eaten with worms and died because when he received applause from the people, he did not give God the Glory but took it for himself.

God hates human pride. He despises it. In fact- Human arrogance and pride is God's number one enemy and something that He *always* and in all cases resists and fights against. Both James and Peter quote the Old Testament in their Epistles when they wrote:

GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

Human self-righteousness and arrogance and pride is the root cause of every sin that we commit because it is the basic root problem with all people who are born after The Fall.

It is pride that will not accept fault and accountability and responsibility for the sins that we commit and that always seeks to blame someone or something else as to why we sin. It is the height of arrogance for people- who stand right underneath the Damnation of God- to shake their fist at God and refuse to bow; refuse to break; and refuse to repent. And it is the very epitome of self-righteousness that

caused a man who was made in the Image and Likeness of Almighty God to rebel against Him and bring about the Fall of Mankind.

So pride is a *universal* problem that affects every single human born after The Fall. It is in the DNA of every Man, Woman, and Child on earth. Some pride is more obvious and blatant while other manifestations of pride and human arrogance are more subtle and underneath the surface. But whether quiet or loud; whether clear or hidden- pride and arrogance and self-righteousness dominates all of Mankind.

And that only serves to prove that it is a false understanding to think that *some* people struggle with pride while others of us have somehow magically escaped it. That is simply not true. Pride is the normal and natural default setting of *all* fallen humans. Nobody has to learn how to be prideful- every human on earth will manifest it as soon as they are able- by virtue of it being in every human from birth. So pride and arrogance and self-righteousness- and the rebellion that goes with it- is the very nature of our humanness; it is part of what makes us to be sinners and fallen; and it is the most common aspect among all human beings-regardless of educational and economic and cultural backgrounds.

And this was the root problem with the Apostles at the base of this mountain on this day here in **Luke 9**. Both the action of the Apostles in trying to prevent others from casting out demons in Jesus' Name in **Luke 9:49** and the statement made by James and John in **Luke 9:54** about calling fire down from Heaven to consume wicked sinners were both originated from the condition of their heart in **Luke 9:46** where Dr. Luke says:

An argument started among them as to which of them might be the greatest.

These words and actions were not based in an earnest desire to see Doctrinal purity- but they were simply the outward manifestation of the inward fallen human arrogance, pride, and self-righteousness that was these men's biggest problem and their biggest hindrance and their biggest threat.

Nothing external to these men- not the pagan Roman Government in which Christianity was against the law nor with the hostile Jewish people who looked at Jesus both then and now as a wicked imposter

was nearly as dangerous or as hurtful to the cause of Jesus Christ as their own sinful pride and arrogance and self-righteousness.

But it didn't stop with these Apostles on that day. Pride was also the root problem in the struggling Church at Corinth later on in the 1st Century. And so I want to take a quick survey of the two letters that the Apostle Paul wrote to that dysfunctional Church to see just what pride is. And as we go through this- I want you to ask yourself these two questions:

1. Is Pride the Root Problem at Corinth?
2. What exactly is Pride?

1. Is Pride the Root Problem at Corinth?

1Corinthians 1:29—"so that no human being might boast in the presence of God . . . "

1Corinthians 1:31—"Therefore, as it is written, 'Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.'"

1Corinthians 3:7—"So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth."

1Corinthians 3:21—"So let no one boast of men."

1Corinthians 4:6 (at the end)—" . . . that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another."

1Corinthians 4:7 (also at the end) —"If then you received it, why do you boast as if it were not a gift?"

1Corinthians 4:18—"Some are arrogant as though I were not coming to you."

1Corinthians 5:2—"And you are arrogant!"

1Corinthians 8:1—"Knowledge puffs up, love builds up."

1Corinthians 13:4—"Love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude."

2Corinthians 1:9—Hardship comes even up to the brink of death, "but that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead."

2Corinthians 3:5—"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our sufficiency is from God."

2Corinthians 4:7—"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us."

2Corinthians 12:9—"I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ might rest upon me."

So from these statements by the Apostle Paul- it is not hard to see that the root problem in the church at Corinth in the 1st Century was pride. And as you listen to what the Apostle says here in our text from **Luke 9**- it isn't hard to see that the root problem with these men at the base of this mountain in the 1st Century was pride. But it also isn't hard to see that the root problem with the Covenant of Peace Church in the 21st Century is also pride. And from these very same passages- it isn't hard to see what that pride really is.

- Pride is boasting in self and not the Lord.
- Pride is taking credit ourselves for what God alone can do.
- Pride is relying on self and not God.
- Pride is feeling sufficiency in our own strength and not in God's.
- Pride is the disinclination to admit that we are mere earthen vessels so that another gets the glory.
- Pride is the unwillingness to admit weaknesses that may accent the power of Christ.

Now if you're honest- you can probably recognize some of your own traits in that list- even as I can. So from that we can see that even though we would like to think of ourselves as humble and generous people- pride lurks in the background of every decision we make and every thought we think and every word we speak. So the point is that that pride is not some side issue or some peripheral issue that is way down the list in things we need to be concerned about. But in reality- pride is constantly nipping at our heels and something that- while we can have victory over it periodically- rears its ugly head at a moment's notice to ruin even our best attempts at serving God and loving people.

So just what is the "good" and "beautiful thing" that is replaced or ruined by our pride? What is it that God loves so much- that He must hate pride with all His might and fight against it? The answer is plain from all these texts.

- God loves the heart that boasts in the Lord.
- God loves the heart that gives Him credit for what He Alone can

do.

- God loves the heart that relies on His Power and His Wisdom.
- God loves the heart that wants Him to get the glory in all things and that wants the Power of His Son Jesus to shine in our weakness.

And if you have caught on to the essence of what I have been teaching over the last decade- you will know that when God delights in these things- He delights in the deepest, most satisfying human experience possible. Because:

- ❖ We were created to boast in God.
- ❖ We were created to give God credit for all good.
- ❖ We were created to rely on God's Power.
- ❖ We were created to magnify God's Glory and His all sufficiency in our weaknesses.

And I suggest to you that these things are the source for all deep and abiding and ultimate joy and satisfaction in us. If God were to delight in anything less than our boasting in Him- it would make God to be an idolater and He would be a killjoy because He would be robbing us of our source for ultimate Joy- which is Himself and His Glory.

So I pray that you can see that Pride diverts our desire and steals our capacity for delighting and finding genuine satisfaction in God and His relentless pursuit of His Own Glory. And that makes our arrogance and our self-righteousness and our pride to be nothing more than a decorated dead end street.

Therefore- because all of that is true- God hates pride. And that means that we should hate in ourselves what God hates in us. And that also means that we should wield the sword of the Spirit as best we can to slay that dragon in our souls as often as possible and to starve all feeding of our pride so that it will be too weak to dominate our souls.

And that is exactly what is going on here in **Luke 9** with the Apostles as three of them have just been up in the mountain and witnessed Jesus being transfigured before their eyes with the very Shikinah Glory of God the Father and all twelve of them have just watched Jesus manifest His Deity by casting out this demon from this child and now after seeing all of that- the first thing these men can

think to do is to try to figure out which one of them is the greatest. And Dr. Luke put this portion in his Story of Salvation to show Theophilus and us just how pervasive and deadly pride really is.

Now in order to fully understand what is going on here with these men on this day at the base of this mountain- we need to understand exactly what we are dealing with and so I want to do what the Bible says to do and “compare spiritual things with spiritual” and allow the Word of God to interpret the Word of God. So if we are to understand what Luke is writing here in **Luke 9**- we must go and see what the God gave the Apostle Paul about this very same subject in **1Corinthians 1:18-31**- so let’s turn there and read that inspired Passage together:

18 For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

19 For it is written, "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE."

20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

22 For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom;

23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,

24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;

27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,

28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are,

29 so that no man may boast before God.

30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from

**God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,
31 so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."**

Now Paul's thought process comes to a climax in verse 31 with the words,

"Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

And these words come from the OT Prophet in **Jeremiah 9:23&24** that says:

**23 Thus says the LORD , "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches;
24 but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD .**

So really what we are asking is, How does Paul guide a person from being proud and self-reliant into being a person who delights in God and not himself?

Now please keep your Bibles open in **1Corinthians 1** because in this Passage- I see at least five steps in Paul's thoughts in these verses. So let's look at them one at a time- not necessarily in the order he wrote them but from the most basic premise to his final conclusion.

1. We Must Acknowledge What We All Want to Boast In

1Corinthians 1:22

For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom;

The first step is the insulting and offensive reality that all humans beings want something to boast in- just so long as it isn't God.

So "**signs**" are the display of power and "**wisdom**" is the display of intelligence. So the underlying point that Paul is making here is that: some people boast through power while others boast through intelligence. It might be your own power or intelligence or it might

belong to someone you can associate with (as was the case here in Corinth).

It might be a ball team that you boast about, or it might be your alma mater, or the company you work for, or a friend, or even a religion, or a church or another person. Pride can boast in itself directly or it can boast in itself indirectly by association.

You see, God created Man with a deep desire to boast in something great. But sin came into the world and made every one of us hate to boast in God. So as a result of being fallen- we seek for displays of power and displays of intelligence and we make these things our gods and boast in them. It might be the power of a tractor pull, or a rocket booster, or a motorcycle, or biceps that look like grapefruits, or (if you are a woman) the power of a shapely figure. Or it might be an A-average in school, or an advanced degree, or a published article, or a merit scholarship, or investment savvy, or the ability to win at Trivial Pursuit or your beautiful new home.

The Greeks craved eloquent displays of intelligence and the Jews wanted open displays of power. One person says, “*Show me something great with your mind*” while the other say, “*Show me something great with your body*”. But no fallen soul ever says (apart from the Spirit; **1Corinthians 12:3**), “*Show me God!*” and then boasts in Him. And that is because sin has blinded us.

2. We Must Affirm God's Superiority Over All Else

1Corinthians 1:25

Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

The second step in Paul's thought is to affirm what everyone denies- the infinite superiority of God over all the power and wisdom of the world.

In other words it is a great tragedy when our search for power and wisdom stops short of God. Because God is a treasure of Power and a treasure of Wisdom that is *infinitely* greater and infinitely more important than any of the things that excite us in this world and capture our imagination.

And Paul wants to stamp this Truth on us so deeply that he risks some dangerous language about God. There is no doubt in my mind that the Apostle Paul honored God and worshipped Him rightly. And Paul didn't think for a minute that God was foolish or weak. But in order to make his point here- he used some interesting language. Paul says that when God is as "foolish" as He can be- He is still far wiser than the collective wisdom of Mankind combined. And when God is as "weak" as He can be- He is still stronger than the sum total of all the power that Mankind can unleash.

So for example- when God in human flesh stoops to hold a child on His lap- in His infinite Wisdom- He also holds the subatomic particles of that child's flesh in existence by the power of His thought. And when He humiliated Himself to allow Himself to be rejected and mocked and beaten and crucified and stabbed- in that unbelievable weakness- in that display of complete weakness- Jesus was in fact utterly destroying the power that Satan had over His people; He was covering all the transgressions of millions of unworthy sinners; and He was forever vindicating the Glory of His Own Name!

How foolish and insulting it is to this glorious God- that in our fallen self-righteousness- we seek and relish in the wisdom and power that are found in the world and not in God- when the weakness of God is stronger than any power in the world and the foolishness of God is wiser than any wisdom in the world!

3. We Must Understand How God Deals with Human Pride

1Corinthians 1:19&21

19 For it is written, "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE."

21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

The third step in Paul's thought is to describe how God deals with Man's sinful love for human intelligence and power- God blockades the way of self-reliance and pride. And here's the way I would put this in my own words:

In His Wisdom- God decided to blockade all the roads and tear down all the towers that men are building to Heaven by their own power and intelligence and to put in their place a single straight gate and one narrow path.

Now there are two ways that God destroys the wisdom of the wise and frustrates the cleverness of the clever. He blockades their *self-reliant* quest for God- that's what the first half of verse 21 means:

... in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to know* God...

Paul preaches Christ crucified as the only Way to God. This destroys the prideful wisdom of the wise and it frustrates the arrogant cleverness of the clever because it is so humiliating to cast yourself on the accomplishments of a bloody Redeemer. Now look again at verse 30:

But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

So here you can easily see why the Cross is the end of the line for human pride. And to get an idea of just how silly and ridiculous the scene is that Paul paints here- try to imagine a well-respected American businessman- a banker, lawyer, or doctor- who is well dressed and well groomed and take this wise and successful man out of the gate of the city over to the garbage dump and stand him in front of a post with a naked man hanging by the nails driven through his wrists, covered with blood- gasping for his last breaths, and tell this man,

"Sir- this bloody and weak and beaten Man right here is the Wisdom and the Righteousness and the Holiness and the Redemption of Almighty God. So won't you kneel down here at the foot of this Cross and cast yourself on this Man for mercy for your wretched soul?"

That man would categorically reject this scene and would walk away insulted that you wasted his time. In other words- the one single

Way of Salvation is be design- the very same way that completely devastates human pride.

This man would exclaim, *"That? You want me to bow down before that? You think I need anything this pitiful man has to offer? Don't you see how well dressed I am? Have you seen the car I drive? Don't you know what all I have accomplished in this life? Don't you know how much money I make? And you think I have any need for that heap of bloody flesh! What do you think I am- a dog? A worm? Do you really think of me as a pathetic sinner who needs anything like this to be able to stand justified before God? I don't need anything like that- I can justify myself!"*

This is what is known as the "Offense of the Cross" and the reason why a bloody Redeemer is offensive is precisely because it attacks the arrogance and self-righteousness and pride of Man head on.

1Corinthians 1:23

... we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,

1Corinthians 1:18

... the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

So in His magnificent Wisdom- God completely cuts off the way of pride and He purposefully frustrates Man's reliance on his own human power and wisdom. And then He opens a single Way to Glory and to God that not one single proud man can comprehend or appreciate- the way of a bloody and humiliating Cross.

Now why did God do that? Is it because He hates Man? No. It is because God hates pride. When God blockades the road of pride- He blockades the road to destruction. And when He routes you onto the Calvary Road of brokenness and humility and faith- He is putting you on the only path to God and to Glory! In **Psalms 16:11**- the writer exclaimed:

In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

4. We Must Explain God's General Choice of People

1Corinthians 1:20, 26-28

20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;

27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,

28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are,

The fourth step in Paul's thought is actually a warning:

There are not many powerful or shrewd people who respond to the saving word of the Cross.

In other words not only has God blockaded the pathways of pride and opened the way of the Cross- but He is also opening the hearts of many foolish and weak and low and despised people along with just a few upper class people, in order to utterly put to shame those who boast in their own power and wisdom and class and achievement. Now why is that? And the answer to this question brings us to our last step.

5. We Must Declare the Purpose of God

And Paul states God's Purpose *negatively* in verse 29 and *positively* in verse 31:

1Corinthians 1:29

so that no man may boast before God.

1Corinthians 1:31

so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

The entire Purpose of God in why He created Man and why He saves sinners is so that we might boast in HIM and in Him alone! And so every thought or word or act that elevates Man and Man's wisdom and man's accomplishments and Man's strength- always and in all cases *devalues* God. And anything that devalues God- robs God of the Glory that only He is entitled to receive. And anything that robs God of His Glory fights against God's Purpose in Salvation.

So that is why God hates pride and that is why we must hate pride too and that is what is going on at the base of this mountain with these men in **Luke 9**. What is at stake here with the Apostles is not some shallow silly exercise in jockeying for position and obtaining a little prestige. No, what Dr. Luke wants us to know is that what is at stake here is nothing less than eternal Salvation and the Divine Purposes of God.

And that is why God is speaking in these words very clearly to us this morning. And what He is saying is this:

Turn this very moment from all boasting in yourself

It is deadly to your soul. No one can be saved unless they see and savor and delight in the weakness and the foolishness of God manifest in the Cross. And that means that the entire effort by the Psychologists and the Psychiatrists and the Sociologists and the Schools to build up human self- worth and self- fulfillment and self- esteem is nothing but death to your soul. There is no Salvation outside of the Gospel and the Biblical Gospel always does great damage to our pride and our arrogance and our self-righteousness and that damage is purposeful and that damage is a gift to us from a loving God.

So do not seek to find pleasure and joy and fulfillment and satisfaction any more in your own wisdom or your own strength or your own looks or your own achievements. Look to Jesus Christ and Him crucified and see what becomes of it all.

Paul said in **Galatians 6:14**:

But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

So I call you to repent and believe the Gospel this morning. And as you do that- confess your arrogance and pride and self- righteousness and come and learn how to die to self and die to selfish ambition and die to boasting in yourself and things that are passing away and as you come to the Cross to die- you will find that you will live. You will live to God and His Glory because the Promise of God is this:

There is no greater life, no greater joy than to boast in Him!

Let's pray.