

## “One Boast”

Resurrection Sunday, April 5, 2026

### He is risen!

Our theme this weekend is *ONE Boast*, based on Gal 6:14 – “*May it never be that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*”

On Friday night we saw how the cross is the end of all human boasting. The only way to truly come to the cross and gain its benefits is to come to the end of yourself. But today we turn our attention to the one thing our souls must boast in.

What do we mean when we talk about boasting in the cross? ***Boasting in the cross means elevating the death of Jesus to the place of supreme importance in our lives.*** To boast in the cross is put all our confidence in what Christ accomplished through His death.

Have you ever stopped to consider how strange it must seem to the world that we boast in the cross? We literally *sing* of the suffering of Jesus and the brutality of the cross. No one does this! Perhaps someone might sing if their enemy dies a brutal death, but one we love? On Friday night we sang,

*“Come, O sinner, come and see  
Christ, the Lord upon a tree  
See the crown of thorns, adorn the King  
Who labors to breathe in agony  
... Oh, the wonder of this awesome scene  
Where our Savior bleeds...”*

Who sings like that? We do! 1Cor 1:18 says, “*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.*” By the end of this message, I hope that you will be convinced that there is nothing better we could sing about! <sup>i</sup>

Today, rather than just zeroing in on one passage of Scripture, let’s step back and look at the bigger picture of what the cross of Christ accomplishes across the landscape of the NT. My aim is to help you see the

amazing breadth of the cross’ impact on all of life for the believer. I’m going to summarize the treasure of the cross in 4 grand points, each of which has massive implications of hope and joy for the believer.

### 1. **We boast in the cross because the cross cancels every lasting effect of sin’s curse.**

It goes without saying that we have to deal with some circumstantial consequences of sin in this life, but for those who are in Christ, the curse of sin is ultimately overthrown.

- a. The cross nullifies the *guilt* and *condemnation* of our sin (Rom 8:1-3).

*Romans 8 declares, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”* How is that possible? How could condemnation be lifted from me if I am guilty of the very sin for which I am condemned? Romans 8:3 gives the answer. “*For what the law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh...so that the requirement of the law might be fulfilled.*” (Rom 8:3). In other words, the cross issues sin’s death sentence for those who believe.

### **Through the cross *God condemned the sin that once condemned me!***

Sin is like a cancer that can kill a person (it condemns him). If you don’t want to die, you need to kill the cancer that condemns you. So the question is, what will kill the cancer of sin that condemns you? Will the law do it? No, the law is no more than an MRI or CT scan that reveals the cancer. Like an MRI, the law can *show you* the severity of the sin-cancer and maybe even make a pronouncement about it, but the law can’t kill the sin any more than an MRI can kill the cancer. What vs. 3 is telling us is that God did what the law couldn’t do. He killed the cancer of sin, destroying its deadly dominion over you.

How did God do it? On the cross, its as if God put the cancer of our sin on Jesus so that when Jesus died, our sin died with Him. (When the person dies the cancer dies too) When vs. 3 says, “He condemned sin in the flesh,” I take it to mean God condemned our sin in the physical body/death of

Jesus.<sup>1</sup> The point is simply, that God sent Jesus in human flesh so that He could die in our place resulting in the death of sin. Or to keep the medical analogy going, *Christ is to sin, what chemotherapy is to cancer. Christ condemned the sin-cancer that once condemned you!* This is why we boast in the cross of Jesus.

Yet this is just the beginning of the good news. With the death-cure of sin comes multiple layers of relief. Imagine you have been in the hospital to have a cancerous tumor removed. If the Dr. comes in and says, “*Good news! We are absolutely confident we got all the cancer,*” that would be a relief to you. But with it come multiple waves of additional relief, like relief from your hospital stay with all its sleepless night and “gourmet” food. Relief from a catheter, relief from medications with nasty side effects, relief from hospital gowns, and eventually relief from pain. In a similar way, when Jesus overcame the power of sin at the cross, it relieves the believer of multiple consequences of sin.

b. By killing sin, the cross removes God's *wrath* (Rom 3:23-25).

Perhaps it would be better to say that the cross expends God's wrath. By taking upon Himself the judgment of our sin, Jesus bore the wrath that we deserved. When Jesus said from the cross, “it is finished,” He meant that the full cup of God's wrath for our sin was exhausted. Romans 3:25 says that God gave His Son as a *propitiation*, that is, as a *wrath-absorbing sacrifice* for our sin. Propitiation means that Christ's sacrifice so fully paid for our sin that it not only turned away God's wrath from those who believe, but also replaced it with His favor. That's why we boast in the cross of Christ!

c. By killing sin, the cross delivers us from *shame* (Gen 3:8)

When Adam and Eve sinned in Gen 3, they tried to hide from God because of the shame of their sin. After God confronted Adam and Eve for their sin, he took the skins of animals whose blood had been shed, and clothed them, covering the shame of their nakedness. This is a foreshadowing of how Jesus' death reconciled us to God, turning our status from guilty to

pardoned, and covered our shame with the robe of Jesus' substitutionary, sinless, righteousness.

d. By killing sin, the cross pays the penalty of *death* (Rom 6:23; Eph 2:1-7).

Romans 6:23 says that “the wages of sin—what you earn when you sin—is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ.” When the Bible says that sin earns us death, it is not merely referring to physical death alone, but estrangement from God. Yet Ephesians 2 says that when we were spiritually dead in our trespasses and sins...God made us alive together with Christ.” We boast in the cross because it is the bridge by which we cross over from death to life!

e. *By killing sin*, the cross bars us from hell (Mt 13:41-42; Rev 20:15; 21:26).

It's unpopular in some Christians circles today to admit that hell is a literal, physical place of torment that never ends. But Jesus described hell as a place of a place of outer darkness, a fiery furnace, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, Rev 20:15 tells us that anyone who's name is not written in the book of life is thrown into the lake of fire. Hell is the consequence of sinning against an infinite, eternal God who is purely holy, perfectly just, and therefore must punish sin to the degree of its offense which is treason against God.

But for those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life because they have forsaken their sinful rebellion to trust in Christ, the death of Jesus removes sin's offense along with sin's penalty locking the door of hell shut from the outside. Oh, boast in the cross of Christ if He has saved you from hell!

f. *By killing sin*, the cross frees us from Satan's dominion and the world's claim (Eph 2:2; Col 1:13-14).

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<sup>1</sup> Following the ESV and NASB but disagreeing with the NIV translation of “in sinful man” (the Greek is simply “in the flesh.”

<sup>2</sup> Mt 8:12; 13:42, 50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30; Lk 13:28

We know from Eph 2:2 that before we came under the reign of Christ, we were under the dominion of Satan, the ruler of this world. But Colossians 1 declares that "God rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of his beloved son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Oh, Satan still tempts us to sin but through the death of Jesus we are no longer obligated to fall prey to his wicked enticements. We boast in the cross because under Christ, the power of Satan and the grip of the world is broken. Finally....

- g. By killing sin, the cross frees us from the obligation to live according to our sinful flesh (Rom 8:3-12).

Romans 8 tells us that our sinful flesh creates a depravity of mind that makes us hostile to God, such that we are not even able to obey God's law or please Him. But in Christ we have been given the very Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead so that we are no longer obligated to live by the flesh. We have the Spirit's power to put to death the deeds of the flesh. Oh, we will still struggle with temptation and sin, but we are no longer obligated follow our sinful flesh.

Oh beloved, If there's one good reason to boast in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, its because the cross kills sin, cancels our guilt and condemnation, removes God's wrath, delivers us from shame, pays our death penalty, bars us from hell, and frees us from the dominion Satan, the world, and our flesh.

Yet, this is only half the story of our salvation that sin's curse has been cancelled! Milton Vincent reminds us that while we deserve each day to drink a full cup churning with the torments of divine fury, what Christ gives us is a cup completely empty of God's wrath. This alone is reason enough for endless praise and gratitude. If even a single drop of kindness were given to us, it should be overwhelming. Yet, Jesus hands us a cup that is not only void of judgment, but spilling over with spiritual blessings! What inexpressible joy!<sup>3</sup> This leads to our second grand reason to boast in the cross of Christ...

## 2. **We boast in the cross because the cross purchases for us every spiritual blessing** (1Cor 1:30-31).

In 1Cor 1 Paul has been defending the core theme of his preaching as "Christ crucified," a message that sounds like foolishness to the world, yet for those who believe it is the power of God. Then Paul reminds those who have been given to sinful boasting, that God has worked in such a way through the gospel "*that no man may boast before God.*"

In vs. 30 Paul concludes, "***By God's doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that just as it its written, "Let Him who boasts, boast in the Lord"***"(1Cor 1:30).

Notice here that God's wisdom, God's righteousness, God's sanctifying work, and God's redeeming work are all granted to us in Christ. And this of course is not an exhaustive list. There are a multitude of spiritual blessings that we enjoy every day and will enjoy increasingly throughout eternity which are the result of Christ's death that reconciles us to God and brings us under His favor and blessing. *There is no spiritual blessing from God that you enjoy that was not purchased for you by the death of Christ.*

In Ephesians 1 Paul broke into praise at this very thought—" ***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ"*** (Eph 1:3).

Dave Jorde is going to come and help me illustrate the cup that Jesus gives you.

First imagine this cup overflowing with blood.

- That is the cup our sin deserves—the fury of God's divine wrath.
- But this cup was poured out on Christ—every last drop.
- Satan, the accuser of the brethren, will come along attempt to shake the cup, reminding us of our past sin and failures, but it's a scam. No more wrath is left for those who are in Christ.

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<sup>3</sup> Milton Vincent, *The Gospel Primer*, pg. 47-48.

But Jesus hands us, not just an empty cup, but one overflowing with the blessings of God's favor. In the interest of time let me just give you a sampling of the endless spiritual blessings that are ours because of the cross (are you ready to find out just how wealthy you are?).

The cross has purchased for us:

- *Truth* and *wisdom* from God
- *Redemption* – bought back from the power of sin
- *Forgiveness* of sin

The cross has purchased for us:

- Our *justification* or right standing before God
- Our *propitiation* in the wrath-absorbing sacrifice of Jesus
- God's *favor*
- The *righteousness of Christ*

The cross has purchased for us:

- The *indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit*
- The *sanctifying work of the Spirit*
- The *fruit of the Spirit*—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

The cross has purchased for us:

- God's *gracious providence* over our life that causes all things to work together for good
- God's *provision* in all things
- God's *protection* over body and soul—what a refuge!

The cross has purchased for us:

- Our *adoption* as sons and daughters of God
- Our future glorification free of sin, sickness, and sadness forever
- An inheritance whereby we will reign with Christ

The cross has purchased for us:

- Spiritual insight and discernment
- The gift of faith
- Eternal security through the sealing of the Holy Spirit
- A new identity in Christ

The cross has purchased for us:

- The armor of God
- Acceptance as God's beloved
- The peace of God that surpasses all understanding
- A multitude of spiritual gifts
- Ministries of innumerable kinds

The cross has purchased for us:

- Answered prayer
- Reconciliation with God and one another
- New hearts, tender hearts, grateful hearts
- Fellowship with God—never alone, never forsaken!
- The body of Christ as our forever family

The cross has purchased for us:

- strength
- comfort
- hope
- grace upon grace upon grace—saving grace, sanctifying grace, empowering grace, grace for the need of the moment, grace and kindness that flows like a constant river for all eternity!
- Every possible evidence of grace in your life, every possible thing that you can give thanks for is an undeserved blood-bought blessing!

Every spiritual blessing is ours because the death of Jesus reconciled us to God, making us the irrevocable object of His kindness, favor and blessing for all eternity! That is why we boast in the cross of Christ!

Some of those spiritual blessings are ours to enjoy now, while others are reserved for heaven. Yet life in this world today is a constant intermingling of temporal pleasures along with various afflictions and experiences of suffering. This leads to a third grand reason to boast in the cross of Christ.

3. **We boast in the cross because the cross redeems our earthly pleasures and suffering** (1Cor 10:31; Rom 14:23; 1:21; 8:28-29; 2Cor 4:17).

We just saw how the cross purchases for us every *spiritual* blessing by reconciling us to God and His favor, but does the cross make any difference when it comes to the temporal pleasures or hardships of this world? By temporal pleasures I mean things on this earth that we enjoy momentarily, like food, sunsets, hobbies, sports, etc.

Let me explain a Biblical perspective that is very important for us to understand. Regardless of how anything we do in this world appears, its benefit or harm is determined by our relationship to God. For example, every good gift that God gives us in this life will either be stewarded as a catalyst of praise to God, or consumed with ingratitude that offends God. Let me point to where we see this in Scripture.

1Cor 10:21 says, "**Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God**" (1Cor 10:31). The context of 1Cor 10 is a discussion of idolatry and whether it was appropriate for Christians to eat meat that someone else had previously offered to idols. Paul says You don't even need to worry about inquiring if it had been offered to idols, because you eat to honor the Lord, acknowledging Him with thankfulness. Only when you know it would cause another person to stumble, should you refrain to honor God regarding the other person's conscience. Do you see here how whether it is good to eat or not is determined by the disposition of one's heart, whether to honor God or not, even regarding our care for others? And notice that Paul broadens the principle of 1 Cor 10:31 to all of life—"whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

Now on the contrary, consider Romans 14:23. "**Whatever does not proceed from faith is sin**" (Rom 14:23). BTW the context here is parallel to 1Cor 10—talking about food and the conscience. Paul's point in vs. 23 is that the benefit or harm in what we do is determined by our heart before God—whether we trust Him and seek to honor Him or not.

Now if this is true for the believer, how much more true for the unbeliever—that everything he does that does not proceed from faith is sin! This is a very sobering truth for the unbeliever. Because he does not believe or trust God, everything he does, regardless of how good it might appear, is regarded as sin because he does it out of a heart of rebellion toward God. Furthermore, nothing he does is done to the glory of God. So, he changes a tire for a stranger or buys groceries for a single mom—good deed? If it is

done from a heart that is living in rebellion against God it has no merit but is counted as sin. This is why "good works" for the unbeliever are not only meaningless, but detrimental to his own soul.

This is the person described in Romans 1:21 who sees the evidence of God around him in creation, but does not honor God or give Him thanks, therefore he stands under God's judgment. He enjoys a sunset, indulges in good food, delights in friendship—all good gifts from God, but not received with gratitude that gives God proper honor. Therefore, he dishonors God and counts up wrath against himself. Don't forget how God's gift of manna in the wilderness, when not received with gratitude and faith, led to God's displeasure.

Before you were born again, absolutely everything you did—every meal, every breath, every second of your life—was building up God's wrath against your rebellious, unbelieving, ungrateful heart! But the cross of Jesus which reconciles you to God redeems your earthly pleasures so that now everything you do can be done to the glory of God. Every meal, every sunset, every human interaction, every basketball game can be enjoyed with gratitude that honors God has the giver of every good gift! This is great cause to boast in the cross of Christ!

And praise God, He does the same with our trials and afflictions. For the unbeliever, suffering has no ultimate benefit to him. But for the one who has been reconciled to God through the cross, God works all things together for our good. God redeems our earthly suffering by strengthening our faith, growing our perseverance, and shaping our character to mold us into the image of Christ (Rom 8:28-29). And all this along with the promise that "our light and momentary afflictions are producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison (2Cor 4:17).

We boast in the cross of Christ because His reconciling death redeems our earthly pleasures so that they produce praise and rather than wrath. And we boast in the cross because though it God transforms our suffering into sanctifying tools for our growing maturity and ultimate joy! Finally...

4. **We boast in the cross because heaven boasts in the cross and forever will** (Rev 5:9-14).

I've included this final reason as an exclamation point to our boast in the cross. Certainly, nothing could be more convincing than God's assessment and heaven's celebration of the crucified Christ.

Rev 5 records for us the enduring song of heaven:

**"Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth..."**

**"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"**

**"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!...Amen!"**

What I simply want you to see from this Revelation song is that **heaven never gets over the cross!** While the book of Revelation introduces Jesus as the Living One who was dead but now is alive forever more (Rev 1:18), the supreme, enduring identity of Jesus in Revelation is the *Lamb that was slain*. More than any other title, name, or badge of honor, Jesus is referred to as the *Lamb* 27x's in Revelation. The enduring theme of praise for all eternity to the King of kings who sits on the throne is the cross!

If this is heaven's boast, then it must also be our supreme boast. Oh, "may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ..." (Gal 6:14).

Is the cross of Jesus your one supreme boast? Have you elevated the death of Jesus to the place of supreme importance in your life? To boast in the cross, is no less than to put your faith and confidence Christ and center your life around Him.

Eternity, good or bad, hinges on your relationship with God. Apart from faith in Jesus, your life is accumulating divine wrath moment by moment. And the only way for you to be reconciled to God is through the sinless sacrifice of Jesus to cover your sin of treason against God Most High— treason, because you have sought to be sovereign over your life instead of God. But if you will repent and believe, it will radically change your relationship with God.

*To repent* is to change your mind about who is really God in your life. *To believe* is to trust that the sacrifice of the sinless Son of God was so sufficient to cover the death-sentence of your sin, that you abandon all confidence in yourself to trust solely and fully in Jesus to reconcile you to God. How do you know that Christ's payment was sufficient to cover your sin? After Jesus endured the full cup of divine wrath for your sin, God raised Him from the dead signifying that He could no longer hold the judgment of your sin against Christ because divine justice had been fully satisfied! *The resurrection is God's affirmation that the sacrifice of Jesus was fully sufficient to cover your sin.*

I call you today, put your hope in Jesus who triumphs over the curse of sin. He will cancel your guilt and condemnation, remove God's wrath, cover your shame, pay your death penalty, bar you from hell and deliver you from the grip of Satan, the world, and your flesh.

Put your hope in Jesus. He will lavish on you every spiritual blessing bestowed by the favor of God.

Put your hope in Jesus. He will transform your earthly pleasures and momentary suffering to work for your good and God's honor. [This is not the promise of a trouble-free life but it is a promise that God's good purposes will be fulfilled in you.]

Put your hope in Jesus and join all of heaven in eternal rejoicing in the reign of the Lamb and King who has destroyed the curse of sin with all its death, destruction, pain, and sorrow.

Honest conversation with Jesus in the quietness of your heart:

- I have sinned against You by seeking to live my life on my own terms instead of Yours

- But today I put my trust in Your sacrificial death, acknowledging that I cannot add to or improve upon Your sinless offering on my behalf
- I surrender my heart to You as my Lord. Teach me to follow You and trust You in all things

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<sup>i</sup> You may be thinking, "This is Resurrection Sunday. Why are we talking about the cross? Haven't we moved beyond the cross?" The resurrection is certainly essential, but we never move beyond the cross. While the resurrection is impressive and significant, what is even more astonishing is that the infinite, eternal holy God, without diminishing Himself in any way, would take on human flesh and die the humiliating and shameful death of crucifixion at the hands of wicked men. The resurrection of Christ demonstrates the power and triumph of God. Yet the cross of Christ reveals unspeakable degrees of God's glory that nothing else can.

The cross of Christ reveals to us:

- The intensity of God's compassion
- the immensity of God's love

- the depth of God's grace
  - the selflessness of God's mercy
  - the wisdom of God's plan – how God could remain just and be the justifier of sinners who repent and believe
  - the severity of God's wrath
  - the holiness of God's justice
  - the value of God's kingdom
- In addition to all this the cross reveals
- the unspeakable gravity of our sin