



# Journey in Discipleship

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## Gospel Christianity: Beliefs

- What is the gospel?
- Who is God?
- What is wrong with us?
- Who is Jesus?
- Why did Jesus die?

The importance of answering the question:

“May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...”

*Galatians 6:14*



# What Is Your Boast in Life?

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**Boasting is the way we were designed...**

*Root idea ...glory, significance*

All of us need a boast that gives us a sense of being significant..  
...that sets us apart from the mass of humanity  
....that gives us a place in the world

**When you boast in something there's an enthusiasm that gets you into the complexities, the nuances, the details**

**But is there really all that much to study & think about when it comes to the cross**

***"May I never boast except in the cross..."***

**Who's ever heard of "boring boasting"**



# “May I never boast except in the cross...”

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## **WHY DID JESUS DIE?**

- To satisfy something in God
- To change something in us

## **WHAT DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD DOES IT MAKE?**

# Why Did Jesus Die?

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## To Satisfy Something in God

“Those who want to make a good impression outwardly are trying to compel you to be circumcised.” Galatians 6:13

“These people who are attempting to force the ways of circumcision on you have only one motive. They want to look good before others, lacking the courage to live a faith that shares Christ’s suffering and death.” The Message

**Any problem God has with me  
just requires a little moral/religious tweaking**

**Paul’s point...this is no small problem  
rather, *DIRE PERIL***



# Why Did Jesus Die?

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If Jesus didn't die because of some dire peril, and his death was necessary to rescue us from that peril...

...Then what's the point???

....How is this an exhibition of love???

**Our Dire Peril...the justice of God which must be satisfied**

*But why can't God just forgive us as a parent forgives a child?*

God is not merely the Father who loves us...

...He is also the King & Judge of the Universe  
who must uphold justice

**The Gospel...God's self-substituting love to fully satisfy his justice on  
your behalf**



# Why Did Jesus Die?

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**“Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.” For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.**

*II Corinthians 10:17-18*

- The “circumcision group” was trying to commend themselves to God & others with their boast in morality & religiosity.
- Instead, you are to stand before God boasting in Jesus...through His satisfying God’s justice by taking the penalty of your sin upon Himself in your place, you are now commended by God

# Why Did Jesus Die?

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To Satisfy Something in God

To Change Something in Us

Neither circumcision or uncircumcision means anything;  
what counts is a **new creation**. *Galatians 6:15*

Jesus' death as a **BATTLE** against all the powers of evil

“Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.” *John 12:31 (Col. 2:13-15)*

**A battle to defeat all self-centeredness, and power accrual**

**What's so amazing about this BATTLE...God overpowers evil with the weakness of a crucified Messiah**



# Why Did Jesus Die?

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## To Change Something in Us

**The cross is a victory...**

***“And having disarmed the powers & authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.” Col. 2:15***

**God’s decisive breaking into the evil of this world that will one day  
make all things right....*beginning with your heart***

**Jesus’ power enters your life to overcome evil (*self-centeredness & power accrual*)...you become a new creation where your approach to status, power, position gets turned upside down**



# What Difference in the World Does It Make?

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Galatians 6:14

When Jesus and His cross becomes your boast, then your relationship with the world changes....

...there is nothing in the world you **MUST** have for your glory/ boast

- You don't worship the world ...needing it's answers for your boast
- You don't fear the world...

“Take heart, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33)

Instead you are free to enter & engage the world as Jesus did... giving your power away in sacrificial service that overcomes evil



# What Difference in the World Does It Make?

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## Greco-Roman Worldview

Gods: *Inferiors serve the god(s)*

Relate to god(s):

*By giving them service & earning their favor*

Human Relationships:

- *Power over others*
- *But insecurity toward the gods*

## Biblical Worldview

God (in Christ):

*God serves inferiors*

Relate to God:

*By receiving His service for you in Jesus*

Human Relationships:

- *Service to others*
- *And security toward God*