

## Lest Any Man Should Boast

### I. Introduction:

A. One of the points of the preaching of the cross is to have man realize we cannot glory in ourselves or other men before God (**I Corinthians 1:18-31**).

1. If man is to glory, glory in the Lord (**Jeremiah 9:23-24**).
2. In whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God (**I Corinthians 10:31**). So, don't pat yourself on your back (**Proverbs 27:2**).

B. The reason this was/is needed in teaching is that man likes to receive glory (**Daniel 4:28-37**; cf. **Ezra 5:12** and **Jeremiah 27:6**).

1. Some like religious clothing, titles, and prestige (**Matthew 23:5-12**). You can dress up a pig in a coat and tie or a fancy dress, does that make that pig a Christian?
2. Pride is not good (**Proverbs 16:5**, **Proverbs 16:18-19**, **Proverbs 21:4**, **Proverbs 25:27**, **Romans 12:3**, **James 4:6-10**, and **I Peter 5:5-6**).

### II. Body: **Ephesians 2:1-13**

A. To immediately debunk some of the errors taught from this text, if you view the first conversions of those in Ephesus you see salvation by grace alone, faith alone, irresistible grace, the Holy Spirit bringing to Christ, etc. is false (**Acts 19:1-7**).

1. Why did the Holy Spirit have Paul write about grace and works in this manner? When so focused on "works", what happens to relationship? Consider what ended up happening to this congregation (**Revelation 2:1-7**).
2. They were strong defenders of the faith because of their being warned/taught (**Acts 20:17-31** and **Ephesians 6:10-18**), but their relationship with our Lord gone.
3. If a person or group of people focus so much on what they are doing, they can miss what God has done (**Romans 3:24**, **II Corinthians 5:17-21**, **I John 2:1-2**, **I John 3:1**, and **I John 4:9-10**).

B. Not to boast (**Luke 18:9-14**).

1. God's work was not according to our works (**II Timothy 1:8-10**).
2. Without Christ, no person could be saved (**Acts 4:10-12**, **I Corinthians 3:11**, and **I John 5:11-12**).
3. That is, even if you have done a million good works (**Matthew 7:21-23**).
4. Even if people think you're awesome (**Luke 16:15**)!

C. Not to settle on God's work alone, without boasting, realize God's expectations for you to do good works (**Colossians 1:10**).

1. One of the reasons we have the Scriptures, is to equip us unto good works (**II Timothy 3:15-17**).
2. We should know what faith without good works is (**James 2:14-26**).

3. You CANNOT separate grace and works (**Titus 2:11-14**).

III. Conclusion: Realize that the best of good works doesn't make you special (**Luke 17:7-10**).