

The Cross Is Our True Richness

“But may it never 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.” (Galatians 6:14) I think what Paul is saying is that, every good thing we have and every bad circumstance that God turns around and works for our good should cause us to praise Jesus for His suffering and death on the cross. That horrible, painful, and bloody execution brought us grace.

We were created by God therefore, nothing we could ever do or give would be worthy of God giving us anything in return. We can not earn our salvation and our sin separated us from God. It is only because of Christ's brutal sacrifice on the cross that we have forgiveness of sins and ever other good thing in our lives. We are blessed and rich only because of the grace of God through the cross of Christ. We should boast only in the cross because, everything we have was bought by Jesus and points to His cross.

We live in America and when the people of Haiti look at us they think we are rich. We are rich, but not because we live in America or because we have more money than they do. We are rich because of the cross of Christ. True richness is not having money, resources, or power. It is understanding that every thing we have and our very lives are a gift from God that we did not deserve.

We have come here to Haiti on a mission trip. We will be ministering through building and dentistry. We will be spending time and playing with children. We will be singing and sharing God's word. We will even give some of the things we have brought. But in all these things we can never make the Haitian people rich.

God has called each one of us here to be an example and witness for Jesus. We are called to show the Haitians that the cross of Christ is the only way to heaven, the only way to come to the Father, and the only way they can be truly rich.

In Acts 3, Peter and John were at the temple. They saw a man at the gates and he was begging for money. He was lame. Peter called out to him and said; “I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene – walk.” (vs. 6) This man was at the edge of the temple, but not inside worshiping. He was begging for money not asking the Lord for healing so he could work. This man was like all of us and all the people of Haiti. He needed grace. Peter and John were used by God to give this man what he really needed. He was healed and could walk therefore; he could work instead of begging. He could walk and he entered the temple to worship and praise God.

God has called us to Haiti not just to serve and not just to help heal. He has called us to witness in a way that exalts to cross, shows Jesus as Lord and Savior, and most of all causes the people of Haiti to walk. Then they too can enter the house of the Lord to worship and praise Him as their Lord and Savior. Only then will they be truly rich. We can joy in the cross, but our joy will not be full until those around us boast only in the cross. That is why we are here!

6/26/2001

God used sickness in my body to keep me home from work. In that time, He taught me and prepared me for my trip to Haiti. The words above are what he taught me.

Geoff Gentry