

DOCTRINE OF BOASTING

I. Vocabulary.

A. Hebrew vocabulary.

1. halal, verb, to be clear, bright, or brilliant, to shine, to be praised or celebrated. In the Hithpael, it means to glory, boast or brag, esp. concerning oneself.
2. Other words are translated "boast" which do not strictly mean boast, but are understood by context to indicate boasting.

B. Greek vocabulary.

1. kauchaomai, verb, 38X, to glory, with reason or without reason, to boast or brag.
2. kauchema, n.noun, 11X, that about which one boasts, the matter or ground which provides the basis for boasting.
3. kauchesis, f.noun, 12X, the act of glorying or boasting.
4. engkauchaomai, verb, 1X, to boast in.
5. katakauchaomai, verb, 4X, to boast against, to exult over.
6. alazoneia, f.noun, 2X, empty talk, insolent assurance which trusts in its own power and/or resources.
7. alazon, noun, 2X, an empty pretender, a boaster.

II. Definition.

- A. Boasting is verbal activity which may or may not be sinful, depending upon the ground or basis of the boasting.
- B. Outside the New Testament it was usually used in a bad sense.
- C. Webster defines boasting as, "speaking in a vainglorious or ostentatious fashion, to exalt oneself, to give an inflated idea of who one is, what they have done, the gifts they possess, etc."
- D. Boasting is verbal activity which comes as a result of pride in something or someone, often in oneself.

III. Sinful boasting.

- A. The word of God has much to say concerning this verbal activity and the inappropriateness of it. Jam. 3:5
- B. The STA is the sponsor of all sinful boasting, and pride is the MA which prompts this activity. ISam. 2:3; IICron. 25:19; Ps. 10:3; Isa. 16:6; Jam. 4:16
- C. God, The Almighty, will ultimately silence all arrogant boasting. Ps. 5:5; Isa. 44:25; ICor. 1:26-28
- D. The fundamental problem boasters have is their arrogance and pride complex which does not acknowledge the Lord, His place, His claims on their life, or His grace. ICor. 4:7
- E. Specific areas of STA sponsored boasting include the following:
 1. Human intelligence/education. Prov. 20:14; Jere. 9:23; ICor. 1:26,27
 2. Human power/military might/allies. Jud. 7:2; Ps. 20:7; Isa. 20:5
 3. Wealth. Ps. 49:6; Jere. 9:23, 49:4; IJn. 2:16
 4. The future. Prov. 27:1; Lk. 12:16-21; Jam. 4:13-16

5. Religion without truth. Deut. 29:19; Ps. 97:7; Jere. 23:32; Rom. 2:17,23;
 6. Toleration of evil. ICor. 5:6
 7. Other men, esp. communicators. ICor. 3:21, 4:6
 8. Anti-semitism. Obad. 1:12; Rom. 11:18
 9. Criminal activity. Ps. 10:3-4, 52:1ff, 94:1ff
 10. Destruction of ones enemies. Job. 31:29; Obad 12
- F. People generally boast about themselves based on:
1. Their physical heritage. Rom. 2:17 racial arrogance.
 2. Their gifts, real or imagined. Prov. 25:14; ICor. 4:7
 3. What isn't theirs to boast about. IICor. 10:13,15,16

IV. Sanctified boasting.

- A. There exists a legitimate form of boasting opposed to the spirit of cosmic boasting.
- B. Generally people boast of themselves; the adjusted believer is to limit his boasting to God and His plan. Ps. 34:2, 44:8; Jere. 9:24; Rom. 15:17; ICor. 1:31; IICor. 10:17; Gal. 6:14
- C. The fact that one cannot legitimately boast of his position and accomplishments is contingent solely upon grace. Rom. 3:27, 4:2; ICor. 4:7; Eph. 2:9
- D. In relation to salvation and the CWL, grace destroys human pride/boasting in accomplishments.
- E. Specific areas in which sanctified boasting is permitted:
 1. The cross/work of Christ. Gal. 6:14
 2. God/His name. Ps. 5:11, 9:2
 3. Phl salvation. Rom. 5:11
 4. God's deliverance(s). Ps. 35:9
 5. Knowing Bible doctrine. Jere. 9:24
 6. SG3. Rom. 5:2; Heb. 3:6
 7. Suffering. Rom. 5:3; IICor. 12:5,9; IPet. 4:13
- F. There is a legitimate self-evaluation before the Lord which provides the basis for sanctified boasting. Gal. 6:4
- G. The greatest time of sanctified boasting will occur at the Bema seat, but only for those who have complied with the dictates of doctrine. IICor. 1:14; Phil. 2:16; IThess. 2:19; IPet. 4:13

V. Boasting and the ministry.

- A. Right pastor has the right to boast in right congregation. IICor. 7:4,14, 8:24, 9:3; IIThess. 1:4
- B. Right congregation can boast in right pastor. IICor. 1:14, 5:12, Phil. 1:26
- C. The PT may boast about the authority he has been given by the Lord. IICor. 10:8
- D. The PT who is correctly fulfilling the work of the ministry has grounds to boast. IICor. 1:12
- E. The PT who supports himself in order to provide Bible doctrine to positive volition may boast. ICor. 9:15; IICor. 11:10
- F. The adjusted communicator does not concern himself with other's accomplishments, but limits his boasting to his canon. IICor. 10:13ff
- G. False teachers desire converts to follow them so they can boast about their success. Gal. 6:13

VI. Conclusions.

- A. Most of the boasting which occurs in the world is not in line with the dictates of Scripture, is STA motivated and is designed merely to exalt the one doing it.
- B. Self-exaltation is a waste of a believer's time. Prov. 27:2
- C. Sanctified boasting involves the ability, and willingness, to bring doctrinal realities to bear on your niche. Jam. 1:9-10
- D. Our boasting is never to be centered in ourselves, our abilities, our accomplishments, etc. but in the Lord and the glorious realities of His plan. Jere. 9:23-24; ICor. 1:31
- E. We place no confidence in our flesh, and recognize that no one has any edge when it comes to the adjustments to God based on fleshly criteria. Phil. 3:1ff
- F. Although it is prophesied that this will be a characteristic of those living in the last days, believers are to avoid self-exaltation and the resultant STA it prompts. IITim. 3:2; Gal. 5:26
- G. Antichrist is characterized by this activity. Dan. 7:8,11

"...let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord..."
Jere. 9:24

"Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord."
ICor. 1:31