

DOCTRINE OF BOASTING

I. Vocabulary.

A. Hebrew:

1. דָּבַר – dabar. Lit. to speak; used 1x to boast indicating boasting is a form of arrogant or prideful speech. 1Sam.2:3
2. הָלַל – halal. In a good sense to praise; in a bad sense to boast. Used 168x.
3. פָּאָר – pa-ar. To beautify or glorify; in a bad sense used 2x to become boastful, boast. It emphasizes the exalting in a boast. Judg. 7: 2 Isa.10:15
4. יָמַר – yamar. Lit. to exchange; looks to the object of the boast. Used 1x in this context. Isa.61:6
5. גָּדַל פִּי – gadal peh. Lit. Great of mouth i.e., big mouth, boast. Oba.1:12
6. Other Hebrew words are translated “boast” that have different root meanings but understood contextually to indicate boasting: בָּרַב – bad: empty or idle talk; רַב – rab: great, large; כָּבֵד – kabad; heavy, weighty or burdensome; פָּחַזוּת – pachazuth: reckless.

B. Greek:

1. ἀλαζονεία – alazoneia. Pride, arrogance; verbally to boast.
2. αὐχέω – aucho. Boast.
3. καυχάομαι – kauchaomai. To glory, boast.
4. καύχημα – kauchema. Grounds for boasting.
5. καύχησις – kauchesis. Reason to boast.
6. ἐγκαυχάομαι – egkauchaomai. To boast.
7. κατακαυχάομαι – katakauchaomai. To boast against.

II. Definition and use.

- A. To boast, brag or be boastful is to talk about oneself or another with pride. It seeks to inflate an idea of someone or thing; to glorify or exalt the object of boasting.
- B. It is used in the Bible in both a good way (sanctified boasting) or sinful as part of STA activity (a verbal sin).
- C. Its two uses are true for both the Hebrew and Greek.
 1. Hebrew:
 - a. STA (Jer.9:23).
 - b. Sanctified (Jer.9:24).
 2. Greek:
 - a. STA (1Cor.1:26-29).
 - b. Sanctified (1Cor.1:31).

III. Sinful boasting.

- A. Boasting is a sin of the tongue/verbal sin. Jam.3:5
- B. It is sponsored by the MA sins of pride and arrogance. 1Sam.2:3; 2Chr.25:19; Psa.10:3; Isa.16:6; Jam.4:16

- C. It is characteristic of the evil in the last days. 2Tim.3:2
- D. God will ultimately silence all STA boasting. Psa.5:5; Isa.44:24,25; Eze.35:13,14; 1Cor.1:26-29
- E. Underwriting boasting is failure to acclimate to the grace of BD. 1Cor.4:6,7
- F. Specific areas of STA sponsored boasting include:
 - 1. Human intelligence/viewpoint/education. Jer.9:23; 1Cor.1:26-29
 - 2. Human power/military might/allies. Judg.7:2; Psa.20:7; Isa.20:5
 - 3. Wealth. Psa.49:6; Jer.9:23
 - 4. Tomorrow/future. Pro.27:1; Jam.4:13-16
 - 5. Others. 1Cor.3:21
 - 6. Toleration of evil. 1Cor.5:1-6
 - 7. Erroneous religiosity. Deu.29:18,19; Psa.97:7; Jer.23:32; Rom.2:17-23
 - 8. Anti-Semitism. Oba.1:12 cp.Rom.11:18
 - 9. STA lusts/intentions. Psa.10:3
 - 10. Evil. Psa.52:1
 - 11. Deceitful tactics in dealing with others. Pro.20:14
 - 12. Boasting in what isn't yours by Divine allotment. 2Cor.10:13
 - 13. False teachers in their followers. Gal.6:13
 - 14. Appearance and the pride of life. 2Cor.5:12; 1Joh.2:16
- G. Boasting in one's self often includes:
 - 1. Heritage/racial arrogance. Rom.2:17
 - 2. One's gifts, real or imagined. Pro.25:14
 - 3. What is another's and their accomplishments. 2Cor.10:13-16

IV. Sanctified boasting.

- A. Specifics to keep in mind:
 - 1. Sanctified boasting is in God and His plan, never in self. Psa.34:2; 44:8; Jer.9:23-24; Rom.15:17; 1Cor.1:31; 2Cor.10:17
 - 2. Grace and faith preclude boasting in self. Rom.3:27; Rom.4:1-5
 - 3. Boasting is to submit to the standard of the WOG in objective self-scrutiny. Gal.6:4 cp.2Cor.10:12-16
- B. Legitimate areas for sanctified boasting:
 - 1. The Lord. 1Cor.1:31
 - 2. The Person and work of Christ. Gal.6:14; Phi.3:3
 - 3. Knowing BD. Jer.9:24
 - 4. The P-T in his congregation. 2Cor.7:4,14; 8:24; 9:2-6; 2The.1:4
 - 5. Adherence to one's doctrinal policy. 2Cor.11:10
 - 6. SG₃. Rom.5:2; Heb.3:6
 - 7. One's niche. 2Cor.10:13,15,16
 - 8. One's weakness. 2Cor.11:30
 - 9. Underserved suffering. Rom.5:3; 2Cor.12:9; 1Pet.4:13
 - 10. An adjusted pastoral ministry. 2Cor.1:12
 - 11. Pastoral authority. 2Cor.10:8
 - 12. SAJG. Rom.5:11
 - 13. Ultimate boasting at the Bema. 2Cor.1:14; Phi.2:16; 1The.2:19; 1Pet.4:13

- V.** If salvation were by works, not by grace through faith, men could boast. Rom.3:27; 4:2; Eph.2:8,9
- VI.** Conclusions.
- A.** Most boasting in the world is STA motivated activity designed to exalt the one doing it.
 - B.** STA boasting is a waste of time. Cf.Pro.27:2
 - C.** Sanctified boasting finds its pillar and foundation in the POG looking to God, BD and +V as the reasons for boasting. 2The.1:3,4
 - D.** Sanctified boasting involves the ability and willingness to apply spiritual realities to one's niche. Jam.1:9,10
 - E.** Sanctified boasting places no confidence in the flesh as giving anyone an edge when it comes to the 3 adjustments. Phi.3:2-12
 - F.** Believers are to avoid self-exaltation and the resultant STA it prompts. Gal.5:26
 - G.** Antichrist is characterized by this activity and the gullible fall for his inflated brags. Dan.7:8,11 cp.2The.2:8-12

“Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord”

1Cor.1:31