

BE PROUD!

Mark 8:34-38

Romans 1:16; 9:33; 10:11

2 Timothy 1:8

1 Peter 4:16

Introduction: God has said that a prideful person usually gets in trouble and that pride is mostly about what that person thinks he/she has done all by him/herself, bragging on one's accomplishments, thumbs in the lapels, "...yes, I did that all by myself..." It is a fact that everybody is proud about something or someone and likes to brag about it. Is that wrong? Is it wrong to be proud of one's husband? Wife? Children? Grandchildren? Pride and proud are just not the same. Are you proud that you are a Christian? If so, then here are some other things to be proud about:

I. BE PROUD OF JESUS CHRIST.

1. Be proud of the one whom the Gospel proclaims as it's founder, the Lord and Savior.
2. Be proud of the Eternal Son, equal to the Father, yet emptied Himself to become a human being:
 - who teaches, guides, inspires and saves all who call upon Him.
 - Be proud of Him.
3. Be proud of the virgin birth by which Jesus came to mankind, as foretold centuries before.
4. Be proud of the miracles Jesus did proving He was the Son of God.
 - His miracles proved His divine power.
 - His miracles revealed His mercy, pity and compassion.
 - His miracles opened blind eyes to see His beautiful creation.
 - His miracles opened deaf ears to the sounds of His creation.
 - He comforted and healed the broken hearted.
 - His promise that one day all who believed in Him would be in Heaven with Him.
5. Be proud of His teachings:
 - Man's words are just that - words. His Words are alive.
 - Man's plans, teachings wilt away - His Words endure forever.
 - Jesus never wrote other than in the sand, yet His Words have brought life to millions.
 - Every word from the lips of Jesus had meaning.
6. Be proud of the example Jesus set for His followers.
 - The world's example is nothing but failure, war and death.
 - The hope that the world offers is but speculation, nothing sure.
 - The ways of man have been tried and all have failed.
 - Jesus declares: *"...this is the way, walk ye in it..."*
7. Be proud to have Jesus as your best friend.
 - Unworthy as one can be, Jesus will be that best friend.
 - Who would not want such a friend as Jesus, closer than one's own brother.

II. BE PROUD OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST!

1. Beliefs and religions around the world will accept Jesus as a "prophet" yet refuse His message.
 - Be proud of the message that Jesus brought.
2. Be proud that Jesus' message, the Gospel, is the only answer for Sin.
 - Nothing the world's religions have can bring freedom from sin and give salvation.
 - Be proud that the Gospel of Jesus Christ can take anybody, regardless of depravity and make that person fit for Heaven.
3. Be proud of the results of the Gospel.
 - The Gospel has turned the world upside down, ending slavery, child labor, women as property, old people despised.
 - Be proud that the Gospel has changed the world's darkness into light, enslavement into freedom, death into life.

III. BE PROUD OF THE GOSPEL'S PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE!

1. God's Church goes on and on while earthly kingdoms come and go, empires rise and fall, the Gospel keeps on going and giving the promise of eternal life with Jesus in Heaven.
 - Be proud of the hope that the Gospel gives each believer.
 - Be proud that no matter how helpless the believer, the Gospel will still enable that believer to be an heir to all that God, the Father, has.
2. Be proud that the Gospel offers through Jesus Christ eternal life to whosoever will believe.

CONCLUSION:

1. Be proud that there is but one Gospel, only one way to the Father, and that is through Jesus.
2. Be proud that there is nothing on earth to compare with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. Be proud that there is no person on earth or in heaven like Jesus Christ.
4. Be proud of being a part of the family of Jesus Christ, a Christian.