Galatians 6:12-15: On Praising Oneself Unusually

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Galatians 6:12-15 [NA28]
12 Οσοὶ θέλουσιν εὐπροσωπῆσαι ἐν σαρκί, οὐτοὶ ἀναγκάζουσιν ὑμᾶς περιτέμνεσθαι, μόνον ἵνα τῷ σταυρῷ τοῦ Χριστοῦ μὴ διώκωνται. 13 οὐδὲ γὰρ οἱ περιτεμνόμενοι αὐτοὶ νόμον φυλάσσουσιν ἁλλὰ θέλουσιν ὑμᾶς περιτέμνεσθαι, ἵνα ἐν τῇ ὑμετέρῃ σαρκὶ καυχῆσωνται. 14 Εἰμι δὲ μὴ γένοιτο καυχᾶσθαι εἰ μὴ ἐν τῷ σταυρῷ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, δι’ οὗ ἐμοὶ κόσμος ἐσταυρώταται κἀγὼ κόσμῳ. 15 οὕτω γὰρ περιτομὴ τί ἐστιν οὐτε ἀκροβυσσία ἁλλὰ κατὰ κτίσις.

Plutarch, Moralia 539B [LCL]
Then about one's own reputation, or power, is offensive, but in practice not many even of those who condemn such conduct avoid the odium of it.

In theory, my dear Herculaneus, it is agreed that to speak to others of one's own importance or power is offensive, but in practice not many even of those who condemn such conduct avoid the odium of it.

Outline

1. Introduction
2. NT Scholarly Perspectives on Boasting
3. Self-Praise in the Ancient World…
   3.a ...in the Greco-Roman World
      3.a.1 Plutarch’s de laude ipsius
      3.a.2 Guidelines on Boasting from Plutarch
   3.b ...in the Jewish Literature
   3.c ...in Paul
4. Unusual Boasting in Galatians 6:12-15
   4.a Boasting about a Cross?
   4.b Εὐπροσωπέω...
   4.c …in the Flesh
5. Implications for Reading Galatians
Bibliography


———, *Obeying the Truth: Paul's Ethics in Galatians*, (Vancouver: Regent College, 2005).


Kahl, B. *Galatians Re-Imagined*, (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2010).


———, *Seek the Welfare of the City: Christians as Benefactors and Citizens*, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994).
