

Sunday, May 23, 2010—Grace Life School of Theology—Understanding Galatians and the Law—Galatians 6:11-18

Galatians 6:11

- *“Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand.”*
- Paul wrote this epistle himself. This was not Paul’s normal practice. Most of the time he would dictate the epistle to an “amanuensis” or secretary who would write down what Paul said.
 - Romans 16:22—Tertius was the amanuensis who wrote what Paul dictated.
- Paul would generally just sign His epistles with his own hand.
- I believe Paul mentions this because there were many in the churches of Galatia who did not believe Paul was an Apostle (Gal. 1:1, 11). Paul does this to certify the authenticity of the book.

Galatians 6:12

- *“As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.”*
- The expression “fair show” literally means a good face. The Judaizers were interested only in externals, or things that could be show off for others for their own benefit.
- Most of churchianity fits into this category. They are just doing things so that people will recognize them.
- Luke 18:10-14
- It is easier to be religious than it is to preach the gospel. Paul says that people who are preaching the Law because they don’t want to suffer for preaching an unpopular message.

Galatians 6:13

- *“For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.”*
- Preachers who are telling their people that they need to work to get saved, stay saved, or prove they are saved don’t even do what they are telling their people to do.
- People would rather place unrealistic standards of performance upon their congregations then have them come here and hear the truth because it makes their flesh feel important.
- Much of what goes on in the name of Christianity is nothing more than a flesh parade.

Galatians 6:14

- *“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”*
- Paul so completely abhorred the desire of the Judaizers to boast in flesh circumcision that he literally cries out—may I never boast in anything except the Cross of Christ.
 - I Corinthians 1:18-24
- The revelation of the cross has eliminated all human works for salvation and with this all human boasting.
 - Romans 3:27
 - Ephesians 2:8-9
- All we can boast in now is the cross! At that is worth boasting in.
 - Ephesians 2:16
 - Colossians 1:20, 2:16
- “First, the “world” through the Cross and Christ’s death upon it had been crucified unto Paul. The cross acted upon the “world” so as to put it to death and this death had specific reference to Paul as a believer.” (Ernest R. Campbell. *Galatians*, 186)
- “Second, Paul reverses the same though by making himself the subject. He literally says that he has been permanently put to death with reference to the world.” (Campbell. 186.)
- Romans 6:2-4
- “Every believer has been identified with the death of Christ on the cross, and has had the world put to death in relation to him, i.e., the world had no power over him (Colossians 2:20). Furthermore, every believer needs to continuously recognize that he has died to the world through the death of Christ and is not to be controlled by its passions and desires. (Campbell. 186.)

Galatians 6:15

- *“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.”*
- “In view of the fact that circumcision was one of the main tenants of the Judaizers both intrinsically and as it represented the Mosaic Law, Paul sets the record straight in this verse as to its importance. Paul’s reference here is not merely to the medical operation of removing the foreskin, which does not have physical significance, but to the circumcision as a spiritual rite.” (Campbell. 187.)
- Galatians 5:6
- The thing that really counts today is being made a new creature.

- II Corinthians 5:17
- Ephesians 2:15, 4:24—physical rites and religious rituals and requirements are of no spiritual value during the dispensation of Grace.

Galatians 6:16

- *“And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.”*
- Rule—is a standard, principle, or criterion by which something is measured.
- What is the rule or measuring stick Paul is speaking about in verse 16? The new creature is the standard or criterion for what is acceptable to God.
- Physical rites and religious observances equal zero in the eyes of God today.
- The Israel of God is referring to true believing Israel not false apostate or religious Israel.
- Romans 9:6-8, 9:11

Galatians 6:17-18

- *“From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. 18) Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.”*
- The Judaizers had certainly added to Paul’s trouble necessitating extra work to counteract their evil influence. As a result they had no doubt caused him much physical as well as mental anguish.
- Acts 14:19-20
- II Corinthians 11:23-29
- Colossians 1:24—Paul actually bore in his body the marks of the Lord.