

Sunday, June 30, 2024—Galatians 6:12-15 What Are You Glorifying In?

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.**
- **As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh**—The expression “fair shew” literally means a good face. The Judaizers were interested only in externals, or things that could be shown 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.
 - Matthew 6:2, 5, 16; 23:5
 - Luke 18:10-14
- Galatians 4:17
- **they constrain you to be circumcised**—the word translated “constrain” occurs 9 times in 9 verses in the New Testament. It is variously rendered as “compel” 5 times and “constrain” 4 times.
 - Matthew 14:22
 - Mark 6:45
 - Luke 14:23
 - Acts 26:11
 - Acts 28:19
- Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary Of The English Language* defines the English word “constrain” as follows:
 - In a general sense, to strain; to press; to urge; to drive; to exert force, physical or moral, either in urging to action or in restraining it. Hence,
 1. To compel or force; to urge with irresistible power, or with a power sufficient to produce the effect.

Job 32:8; Acts 28:19; II Corinthians 5:14
- Galatians 6:12—the Judaizers who are primarily about “making a fair shew in the flesh” were seeking to “constrain” i.e., “compel” or force the Galatians to be circumcised.

- Galatians 2:3—Titus was not “compelled” to be circumcised.
- **only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ**—according to Paul, the motives of the people preaching the message of circumcision was to avoid persecution.
 - Galatians 6:17—Paul bore in his body the “mark of the Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - II Corinthians 11:23-28
- It is easier to be religious than it is to preach the gospel. Paul says that people who are preaching the Law do so 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.**
- Galatians 3:10-12—there is more to the Law than circumcision. The law demands perfect obedience.
 - Romans 2:17-24
 - James 2:10
- Preachers, who are telling their people that they need to work to get saved, stay saved, or prove they are saved, do not even do what they are telling their people to do.
- People would rather place unrealistic standards of performance upon their congregations than have them come here and hear the truth because it makes their flesh feel important.
- Galatians 4:17—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 about is the cross! And 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 [His message and ministry i.e., the preaching of the cross.]” (Ernest R. Campbell. *Galatians*, 186)
- “Second, Paul reverses the same thought 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.)