

Sunday, July 7, 2024—Galatians 6:15-16 Do You Walk The Line?

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—this verse is indicative of a dispensational change.
 - Galatians 3:26-29
 - Colossians 3:11
 - Genesis 17:9-14—God required physical circumcision in His dealings with Israel. It was required.
 - Colossians 2:11-12—the circumcision and baptism that matters today is spiritual not physical.
 - Ephesians 2:11-12—the distinction between Israel and the Gentiles is the fundamental feature of time past.
 - During the Dispensation of Grace, all “time past” directives were removed.
 - Romans 6:14
- Galatians 6:15—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.**

- **And as many as walk according to this rule**—the word translated “walk” as the same word found in Galatians 5:25. The word “walk” is talking about our progression through life as believers.
 - Geographically, the believer is still in the flesh until the day of redemption but is no longer spiritually tied to it.
 - Therefore, we really live (Romans 8:9-10) in the Spirit. If this is so, then let us walk in the Spirit.
- Once again, we see Paul reinterring key concepts from the book in his conclusion in Chapter 6.
- The word “rule” is a standard, principle, or criterion by which something is measured. Elsewhere in Paul’s epistles the word is translated as “line.”
 - II Corinthians 10:16
- What is the rule, line, or measuring stick Paul is speaking about in verse 16? The new creature is the standard or criterion for what is acceptable to God.
 - As believers Paul wants us to “walk the line.” He doesn’t want us to exchange our “new creature” status for” for inferior substitutes. Physical rites and religious observances equal zero in the eyes of God today.
- **peace be on them, and mercy**—if you want spiritual peace in your life you are going to have to “walk” Paul’s line. The line of grace.
- **and upon the Israel of God**—the “Israel of God ” is referring to true believing Israel, not false apostate or religious Israel.
 - Romans 9:6-8