

GALATIANS 6:11-18

The Judaizer's preaching of circumcision was causing great confusion and conflict in the young Galatian church (a picture in itself of what happens as we turn from faith to the impulses and energy of the flesh). Paul has been bringing rescuing truth from all angles; this is his final appeal.

Pray: O send Thy Spirit, Lord, now unto me, That He may touch my eyes and make me see.
Show me the truth concealed within Thy Word, And in Thy book revealed I see Thee,
Lord.

Review your memory verses: 1:3-5; 2:15-16, 20; 5:22-23.

Memorize: Galatians 6:14.

Read: Galatians 6:11-18.

Final Words From the Heart: Galatians 6:11-18

1. Paul dictated his letters, then personally wrote his signature and just a closing line or two.
 - a. How is this letter's ending different? Why might that be?

b. Optional: What are some possible reasons for Paul's "large letters?"

2. In 6:12-13, what does Paul reveal about the professing believers who had been setting themselves up as teachers? (*Boast* in verse 13 is *glory, exult.*)

6:12: The Romans officially recognized the Jewish religion. So the outward mark of circumcision would ease the way for Christians, if persecution arose from either the Jews or the Roman government.

6:13b: They wanted followers, so as to be thought great leaders. They thought of the Galatians as their conquests and admirers, and gloried in their own influence. (William Pettingill, William Barclay)

3. Why is Paul's description of the Judaizers such a perfect illustration of our flesh at work?

4. The flesh seeks to put on a show and boast before God and man. What is Paul's earnest desire and prayer in verse 14?

5. Read these now-familiar passages. Underline our true reasons to glory and exult.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (1:3-5)

"Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." (3:10, 13)

We were in slavery...But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." And the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (4:4-6, 5:22-23)

Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and delivered Himself up for me. (5:24, 2:20)

Paul's own story of coming to Christ was a culminating reason for him to glory in the Cross. In chapter one he said, *I used to persecute the church of God. But...He..called me through His grace!*

6. Recall your own story. What causes you to exult in the Lord and His cross?
Before I knew Him....

But He...

For salvation and all of life, may we say: Nothing in my hand I bring, only to Thy Cross I cling.

*When I survey the wondrous cross, On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.
See from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

Isaac Watts

7. How might glorying in the cross change the way *we* respond to “the world”—the fleshly society around us?

8. Now in verse 15, how does the apostle wrap up his entire appeal to the Galatians? (See also II Corinthians 5:17-18a.)

9. Who are “all who walk by this rule?” (6:16: they’re also called the Israel of God.)

10. Closing words are very significant words.

a. Two specific provisions are especially directed to you as God’s new creation and His own child: “ _____ and _____ be upon them.”

b. Tell the meaning each of these words has for you.

The false teachers were trying to win followers by attacking Paul, his ministry and motives.

11. What had happened not so very long ago, as Paul was laboring to bring the gospel to the cities all across Galatia (Acts 14:19-22)?

12. What do you think Paul is trying to convey in Galatians 6:17? (What do those marks “tell” the Galatian believers—and everyone else?)

Paul, the marked servant of Jesus Christ, now concludes his heartfelt message to these folks who are so dear to him, and even dearer to their Savior.

13. Why are his words in 6:18 such an appropriate ending for this epistle?

Amazing Grace shall always be my song of praise, For it was grace that bought my liberty; I'll never know just why He came to love me so—He looked beyond my fault and saw my need.

I shall forever lift my eyes to Calvary, To view the Cross where Jesus died for me; How marvelous the grace that caught my falling soul! He looked beyond my fault and saw my need.

D. Rambo (as sung by Andre' Crouch)

14. Close your study time in prayer.