

**The Book of Galatians**  
**Lesson 12 - Galatians 6:11-18**  
**Gospel Living**  
**Focusing on the Eternal**

To the very end of the letter, Paul has grace in mind. The Christian who depends on grace, through the Spirit, will always bring glory to God.

Paul usually used an assistant when he wrote, dictating the letter, and then adding his personal “grace signature” to the end. But apparently he wrote Galatians personally, and, because of his poor eyesight he had to write in large letters. “*How large a letter*” does not mean the number of words, because the letter is relatively brief; it means the size of the individual letters. Paul did not permit his physical handicap to hinder him from obeying God and warning his Christian friends of the evils of legalism.

“*These Judaizers want to use you for their glory,*” Paul asserts (vs.12). “They are not ministering to you for your good, but for their own praise. They want to avoid the persecution that comes to those who preach the cross. But they do not even obey the law themselves!” What a stinging rebuke! These Judaizers, like the Pharisees of Christ’s day, would cross land and sea to make a convert, not to help the convert, but to add more glory to their own names. But Paul was not of this type: he gloried in the cross and willingly took all of the shame and persecution that was attached to it. Paul could glory in the cross because he knew the Person of the cross, the purpose of the cross, and the power of the cross.

“These false teachers belong to the world and are living for the world,” states the apostle. “Religion” has made the cross a symbol; the Spirit makes the cross a reality in the life of the Christian who lives by grace.

The church today is the true Israel of God, because God’s ancient people have been set aside temporarily in unbelief and are termed “*not my people*” (Hosea 1:9-10; 2:23; Rom. 9:25-26). One day Israel will become God’s people and inherit their national promises. The “rule” we are to walk by is that of grace and the new creation in Christ.

With one sweep of the pen, Paul brushes away these legalistic troublemakers. “Your false teachers are marked with circumcision,” he writes, “but I have on my body the marks [brands] of Jesus Christ.” This does not mean Paul had five wounds on his body similar to Christ’s wounds; it means rather that he had scars on his body to prove that he bore reproach for the cross of Christ. Paul was Christ’s soldier, slave, and devoted follower.

**Read Galatians 6:11-18 and answer the following questions**

1. What reasons does Paul think are motivating those who are pushing circumcision on the Gentiles?
2. How might Christians do things for similar motives today? How might you guard yourself against each of these dangers?
3. Boasting means, “to take pride in something, to boast, glory, pride oneself.” Looking at the Judaizers in verses 12-13, how did their desire to boast lead them to destruction?
4. How is Paul’s boasting in the cross different from the Judaizers?
5. How does verse 14 capture the heart of the gospel message?
6. How can we communicate the urgency of the gospel to our friends and family who don’t know Jesus?

7. What does bosting in Christ alone look like in your daily life? In how you pray? In how you worship? In how you treat your friends and co-workers?

8. In verse 14 Paul says that through the cross, the world was crucified to him. How would it be possible to live as if the world was dead and gone?

9. From the opposite viewpoint, why would Paul be dead as far as the world was concerned?

10. Compare Galatians 6:15 to 2 Corinthians 5:17. What can we learn by seeing how these two verses overlap?

11. In verse 16-17 how do we see that grace not only begins the Christian life, but stays with us throughout it?

12. Think back on this study through Galatians. Was there a particular lesson or truth from the letter that: A. Encouraged you? B. Convicted You? C. Helped you understand something you didn't before? D. Reminded you of something you might have forgotten?

## **Book Ends of Grace**

*“Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ”*  
Galatians 1:3

*“Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen”*  
Galatians 6:18

Paul could wish nothing greater for the Galatians than this. If this were so, they would walk in a grace relationship with God instead of the legal, performance-based relationship that endangered them so. This is an appropriate end of the letter and prayer of all our lives.