

### **Conclusion: Galatians 6:11-18**

#### **Motives of Troublemakers: Galatians 6:11-13:**

*Galatians 6:11-13: See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. 12 Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh try to compel you to be circumcised, simply so that they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. 13 For those who are circumcised do not even keep the Law themselves, but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh. NASU*

In verse 11, Paul is not referring to the length of his letter(s) but rather the size of the letters he is using in writing. For effect/to impress upon his readers, Paul personally writes out the conclusion of his letter to the Galatians, verses using his amanuensis (secretary).

Paul concludes by going back over the important issues he has addressed in his letter: the centrality of the cross, the completeness of Christ's death on the cross for everything necessary for salvation and the clear difference and division the message of Christ brings about between world and Christians; the cross is central and sufficient for the believer and the world hates and rejects the message. **2 Peter 1:2-3**

The Holy Spirit, through Paul, states those asserting the believers need of circumcision for salvation are only doing so "to make a good showing in the flesh." Meaning, there is no spiritual value in circumcision. Ultimately the false teachers are simply man pleasers – not willing to bear the burden of the cross of Christ (*they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ*). **Matthew 16:24-25; John 16:33; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; Colossians 2:20-23**

Again, remembering the writings of Paul are inspired of God, or God breathed, God is telling the Galatians believers those who were compelling the Galatians into a legalistic religion, they do not keep the laws themselves, while attempting to compel the Galatians follow. As Paul in chapter 5 stated, *any man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law*, and James in the second chapter of his letter have stated, *whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all*. **Matthew 7:15-18; Acts 20:28-30; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:2-5, 13-14, 4:3-5; 2 Peter 2:1-3; Jude 4**

This is another place when the Lord would have us to have discernment and use our sanctified common sense, i.e., use our heads (2 Peter 1:3). God has already provided the information and calls on believers to use His word to mature and grow in their knowledge of Christ; through discipline and training of our minds to be able to discern/decide between truth and evil. **Galatians 5:3; James 2:10; 2 Peter 3:17-18**

### ***Motives of Paul: Galatians 6:14-18:***

*Galatians 6:14-15: But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. NASU*

Unlike the false teachers., Paul examines the motives of the true ministers of Christ, including himself. True ministers of Christ trust only in Christ's completed work on the cross for their justification; not themselves, as do the false teachers, who emphasis or trust in who they are, what they "know," and what they do or do not do. Paul, as should all Christians, trusts only in what Christ has done. ***Jeremiah 9:23-24; Romans 3:27-28; Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-9***

Paul is no longer, though he did in the past, look at or for things of the world for salvation; the world provides significance for Paul in relation to his salvation or acceptance before God (*the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world*). No outward action (*circumcision or uncircumcision*) avails Paul any standing before God, rather it is only a *new creation*, being in Christ, having been born again. ***1 Peter 1:22-23***

*Galatians 6:16-18: And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. 17 From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus. 18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen. NASU*

Paul closes out his letter praying a blessing on those who walk according to the teachings of Christ (*peace and mercy be upon them*), who are the true Israel (*upon the Israel of God*), who are not to be confused with the false teachers, who are claiming superiority through their birth or those who are falling for and following the false teachers.

In verse 17, Paul, noting the marks he had received on his body for the cause of Christ, he did not want to have to deal with this issue again. He is expecting the believers in the church to reject the false teachers and grow in Christ while insinuating that if there are those who continue in this false teaching, he would address their error stringently. ***1 Corinthians 4:18-21, 5:4-5; 2 Corinthians 1:23, 10:5-6, 13:10***

Paul closing statement and prayer for the believers, "*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit,*" summarizes the entire message of his letter. It is only by and through the grace of Christ, that man can come and by which man must live for God and Christ. We are to walk in this truth.