

Changed, Within, By the Cross

Galatians 6:11-18

- I. Personal note (Galatians 6:11)
 - Paul authenticates this letter by signing it personally, though he dictated the rest of it.
- II. Focus on Rules: Some Christians compromise the cross as they “boast” about keeping external rules (Galatians 6:12-13).
 - A. To satisfy unbelieving Jewish leaders, some taught that Christians must be circumcised (6:12a).
 - Some “Christian” groups say they believe we are saved by faith in Christ, but they add conditions to salvation.
 - B. By insisting on the rule of circumcision, the Judaizers were distracting from the cross of Christ (6:12b-13).
 - Do I add conditions to salvation or rules to the Christian life to please certain people?
 - Are we afraid to speak clearly about the cross?
- III. Focus on Grace: We should “boast” about the sufficiency of the cross and then let God transform us internally (Galatians 6:14-15).
 - A. *Boast in the cross* – Paul proudly gave Christ’s death credit for everything good in his life (6:14a).
 - B. *World crucified to me* – When I focus on God’s grace, I no longer desire what the world offers (6:14b).
 - C. *I (crucified) to the world* – When I focus on God’s grace, I don’t care if the world approves of me (6:14c).
 - D. *What counts is a new creation* – Rules don’t matter; God making me new from within does 6:15!
- IV. More Personal notes (Galatians 6:16-17)
 - Paul wishes God’s blessing upon all who pursue God’s grace alone – Gentiles and Jews (6:16).
 - Paul challenges those against him that he is willing to take persecution for the cross (6:17).
 - Paul wants every “brother” to enjoy God’s grace (6:18).