

The Epistle of Paul to the Galatians

Boast Only in Christ

Galatians 6:11-14

1. **The Passion of the Apostle** (Gal. 6:11)

From the beginning to end, this has been a letter full of Paul's raw emotional investment. Whether he wrote the whole letter himself or used an amanuensis (cf. Rom. 16:22) until this final section (cf. 1 Cor. 16:21), the emphasis of his personal touch is significant (cf. Philemon 19).

2. **The Pride of the Judaizers** (Gal. 6:12-13)

All man-made religion depends on one's own achievement and necessarily are insufficient to find please God (cf. 1 Ki. 18:21ff). Knowing that they are not righteous in the eyes of God, false religionists strive to appear righteous in the eyes of men (Matt. 6:1-8).

A. Exclusive in the eyes of their followers (Gal. 4:17)

The Judaizers desired to be the exclusive teachers of the Galatian Christians, and they sought to accomplish this with their lies. Paul, and all faithful ministers of Christ, are not bound up in which faithful teachers are being used by God in people's salvation and sanctification (cf. 1 Cor. 3:1ff; cf. Phil 1:15-18).

B. Esteemed in the eyes of their opponents (Gal. 6:12)

Jewish society was strongly centered around the synagogue, and being ostracized from the gathering of Jews was a high cost (cf. John 9:22). Circumcision was a particular sticking point between the Jews and the Christians, and requiring circumcision while teaching about Jesus resulted in less persecution (Gal. 5:11; cf. Gal. 2:12; 2 Thess. 2:2). The Judaizers thought they found a way to appease the Jews and still be Christians (cf. 1 Cor. 1:23).

C. Exalted in their own eyes (Gal. 6:13)

False teachers are often zealous in their proselytizing (cf. Matt 23:15). Boasting in their own hypocritical self-righteousness is not long sufficient and so they desire to boast in their ability to make others follow them.

3. **The Primacy of the Cross** (Gal. 6:15)

Paul's sole focus was to know Christ and to make Him known to men (1 Cor. 2:2). Because of the supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ, all of those things in which he formerly boasted were valued as worthless (Phil 3:3-9). Now the only pattern for living was not in self-righteousness but in a self-sacrificial striving to honor and proclaim Jesus (Gal. 2:20).