

Freedom – Cross Centered Life

Galatians 6:11-18

“We pursue being a disciple making family: surrendered to Jesus, transformed by the gospel, and saturated in His word.”

Paul closes out his letter to the Galatian churches much the same way he started it, by emphasizing the grace of Jesus. He has spent an entire letter showing that it is not by works that one is rescued and saved but by the mercy and grace of Jesus. Paul points out that those who have faith in the work of Jesus are now new creations. The false teaching Judaizers are boasting in their flesh and trying to use the Galatian Christians to have a good showing to others. He emphasizes that those that have faith in Jesus will boast in nothing but the work of Christ and that will impact every aspect of their lives.

1. Paul pointed out that he was writing with large letters to the believers in Galatia which likely was speaking to the importance of his message of grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. After studying the book of Galatians, can you see the reason why he saw this to be so important? Think about this from a modern perspective. What are some teachings today or beliefs today that have the ability to lead Christians and churches astray? Why are these so believable and also so dangerous?
2. The Judaizers were asking for cooperation in the “diets, days, and displays,” especially circumcision. These specific things may not be a major issue in our day but clearly the observance of external religious ritual over the internal relationship with Christ can always be tempting. The Judaizers were manipulating the Galatian Christians to observe the external religious ritual. Why is it so easy to fall into a performance trap of externals to gauge spirituality? How does the pressure of the Judaizers go against the law of Christ to love our neighbor as ourselves? What was the ultimate goal or reason for the pressure from the Judaizers?
3. Paul makes the comment that he will only boast in the work of Christ on the cross. He is calling the Galatian Christians to realize they are new creations and have been crucified in relation to the world and free from the struggle of having to please others or fit into the performance patterns that they dictate. He points out to walk by this standard they will find peace and mercy. We are a boasting people. What are some things that we tend to boast in other than the work of Christ? How do we keep from being like the Judaizers and manipulate and use people to make ourselves appear to have a good showing?
4. It's not wrong to celebrate or even recognize something that God has done, for instance, the number of baptisms, the number of attendees, the number of salvations, etc. However, to make that something the ultimate thing or gauge for success is really boasting in something other than the work of the cross. It can lead to comparison and pride. Paul points out that the Judaizers are promoting

circumcision because the Jews would not persecute them if they did that. It was to their advantage. To get other people to follow through with this would serve well for their standing with the Jews and make life easier. What are some ways today that we promote external obedience to avoid the “condemnation, consternation, and disapproval of certain groups?” Where have you found yourself being tempted in this?