

*Galatians—Grace Above the Law
Our Freedom in Christ*

Lesson 11—Galatians 6.11-18

Continuing from our last study...

Prayer

Start by praying over the passage and asking the Holy Spirit to give you fresh insights and wisdom in understanding it. Then read through the entire passage two or three times.

Scripture Meditation/Memorization

One of the most fundamental and rewarding Christian disciplines that pays back in full spiritual dividends is Bible meditation/memorization. It is an absolutely fundamental in the formation of your spiritual development, spiritual walk and faith growth. In Psalm 1:1-2 (NLT), the Psalmist warrior, King David said,

*“Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.
But they delight in the law of the Lord,
meditating on it day and night.”*

Use the suggested verse(s) to meditate on during the course of this week's study.

Memory Verse

*“[14] But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. [15] For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.”
—Galatians 6:14-15 (ESV)*

Galatians 6:11-15—*Glory Only in the Cross*

Paul gives some additional final points in his argument against the legalists. All other world religions have this in common with the Judaizers: they all try to win favor with God through the works or deeds of men. Christianity stands alone in saying that man cannot satisfy the righteous requirements of a Holy God and only through accepting the gracious gift of salvation in His Son can we attain a right standing before Him. A commentator once said either both viewpoints are wrong or one viewpoint is correct; however, they cannot both be correct as they are contradictory.

1. At first glance verse 11 may seem odd but Paul likely had a scribe write down his words for the majority of the epistle. Compare his closing remarks with 1 Corinthians 16:21 and 2 Thessalonians 3:17. What similarities or differences do you notice? What purpose could this comment serve?

2. In verse 15 Paul tells us that neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, which seems counter to the entire letter. There are three key words or phrases that help explain his statement that circumcision really doesn't matter. What do we learn from each of these key points?

- a. Compel you to be circumcised (verse 12)

- b. For in Christ Jesus... (verse 15)

- c. But a new creation (verse 15). Also look up 2 Corinthians 5:17.

3. Judaism was an official religion (one of many) within the Roman Empire and this status largely protected those who practiced it from any official persecution and gave them certain rights and privileges. Circumcision was evidence that an individual was a practicing Jew. Based on this information and verse 12, what additional motivation did the Judaizers have in promoting their brand of legalism?

4. Boasting is generally considered inappropriate behavior. However in some contexts boasting should actually be encouraged. I've heard it said from the pulpit that I will not boast about my great love for Jesus but rather His great love for me. What do you learn about acceptable boasting in:

a. Galatians 6:14

b. James 4:16

c. Romans 3:27

d. 2nd Corinthians 7:7, 14

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5. In Galatians 5:11, Paul spoke of the offense of the cross and returns to this to say that only in the cross (the universal symbol for Christianity) will he boast. Why is the cross the very focal point of our faith and why is it so offensive to our liberal society? If you have trouble answering this one, you can go to John Piper’s thoughts on it at: <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/a-reason-to-be-really-offended>.

Galatians 6:16-18—*Blessing and a Plea*

This is the only epistle without any commendations for those receiving the letter. Paul’s concern for the spiritual wellbeing of the young church produced a letter that even today would be considered “tough love.” Despite the tone and intention of the letter, Paul seems to shift gears in the final few verses as he makes his closing remarks.

1. What is the final plea Paul makes in these last 3 verses? What do you think he means by bearing the marks of the Lord Jesus in his body?

2. As we look back over the past few months of study in the book of Galatians what was your take away from:

- a. Chapter 1

b. Chapter 2

c. Chapter 3

d. Chapter 4

e. Chapter 5

f. Chapter 6

Lesson 11 Summary/Take Away

As we conclude our study in the Book of Galatians our final takeaway is a little different. Looking back over the entire landscape of Galatians and the last few months of study, describe your single biggest takeaway from these lessons and how you will apply it in your walk with the Lord in the future.

Memory Verse

"[14] But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. [15] For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation."
—Galatians 6:14-15 (ESV)

Key Words/Phrases

Write out the definition of these key words. You can use a regular dictionary or go to one of the Greek sources listed in the Tool Box at the end of the study. You may also use a concordance to see where else and how the word is used in the Bible. *How would these phrases instruct or encourage us today?*

The World Has Been Crucified to Me (Galatians 6:14)

Tool Box

Step 1: The Bible. Read the passage in a couple of different versions. If you are having trouble understanding a passage, choose a more dynamic version such as *New Living Translation*. To focus in on the exact meaning of a verse, choose a more literal translation such as *English Standard Version*, *New American Standard Bible* or *New King James Version*.

Step 2: Study Tools. Use these to help you dig deeper. Background Information: 1) Unger's Bible Dictionary, 2) Bible Dictionaries online at biblestudytools.com and blueletterbible.com. (recommend both David Guzick and Chuck Smith's commentaries/study notes); Word Studies: 1) Zodhiates' *The Complete Word Study New Testament*, 2) Vine's *Complete Expository Dictionary*, and 3) Strong's *Dictionary of Bible Words*.

Step 3: Commentaries. Commentaries should not be used in place of studying God's Word directly, but they can give you additional insights. Some good commentaries include: Warren Wiersbe, J. Vernon McGee, F.F. Bruce, *the Expositors Bible Commentary*, *NIV Application Commentary*, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* (edited by Walvoord & Zuck), *the Tyndale New Testament Commentaries*, and William Barclay (*great for background and culture, but be careful of his spiritual applications).

Step 4: Online Assistance. Should you have a specific question about the study please e-mail your inquiry to: mannyqwcm@gmail.com

