

## **FOCUS ON THE GLORY OF THE CROSS**

**INTRODUCTION:** In these closing verses of Galatians, the Apostle Paul takes the pen in his own hand to deliver a final, passionate defense of the Gospel. Moving beyond the technical arguments of the letter, he exposes the shallow motives of the legalists and centers everything on the transformative power of the Cross. This passage serves as a powerful summary of the Christian life—one that is defined not by external rituals or human approval, but by the radical reality of being a "new creation" in Jesus Christ.

*Galatians 6:11-18*

### **I. THE MOTIVE OF FALSE TEACHERS vv.11-13**

#### A. The personal appeal of the Apostle. v. 11

1. Paul says "see" because he wants them to stop and notice.
2. Paul emphasizes his message by writing in large letters.
3. By writing this in his own hand he is making it a personal letter from his heart. *Colossians 4:18*

#### B. The strategy of social pressure. v.12

1. The purpose of the Judaizers was to simply make a good showing in the flesh. *1 Samuel 16:7*
2. The method they had used was one of religious pressure.
3. This fleshly endeavor alleviated any persecution for the cross of Christ. *2 Timothy 3:12*

#### C. The hypocrisy of ritualism. v.13

1. Though the Judaizers are pushing adherence to the Mosaic law, they are not keeping it themselves.
2. It appears that their only agenda is to build their religious numbers.
3. Their boasting is misplaced as it is only in the flesh and not to Jesus and the cross. *2 Corinthians 10:17, Isaiah 2:11-12*

## II. THE BOAST OF THE BELIEVER *vv.14-15*

### A. The cross is to be our only boast. *v.14*

1. We are not to be boasting in our own works, status or religious record. *1 Corinthians 1:26-27*
2. Our boasting should be solely upon the finished work of Jesus on the cross.
3. He is our personal Lord and Savior. *John 15:15*

### B. We are now crucified to the world.

1. Through the cross, the world's values, approval and attractions lose their power. *John 17:15-16, 1 John 5:4-5*
2. Being crucified to the world is part of our new identity.
3. This means that the world no longer has a claim on us. *1 John 2:15-16*

### C. We are now a new creation, void of religious performance. *v.15*

1. Outward religious badges no longer matter.

2. The most important thing is that we are now in Christ Jesus. *John 15:4*
3. This is truly what God has performed in us, by making us a new creation.

### III. THE BLESSING AND PLEA *vv.16-18*

#### A. We are now to walk according to the rule of the gospel. *v.16*

1. If they really want to live by a rule, Paul is now giving it to them. *Ephesians 4:21-24 NLT*
2. The reward for living this way is that of peace and mercy.
3. The Israel of God is a reference to the true people of faith. *Romans 2:28-29 NLT*

#### B. What it means to bear the marks of the Lord Jesus. *v.17*

1. Paul refuses to give into further harassment from the legalists.
2. The marks he is bearing are that of persecution and not that of circumcision. *2 Corinthians 11:23-28*
3. These marks are what truly show that he belongs to Jesus. *John 15:20*

#### C. We are now sustained by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. *v.18*

1. When all is said and done, Paul refers to the Galatians as his brothers and sisters.
2. Just as he began the letter, he emphasizes the word grace. *Galatians 1:3*

3. He points at grace as being with their spirit.

**CONCLUSION:** The Book of Galatians is a passionate defense of the gospel of grace, asserting that salvation is received by faith alone in Jesus Christ, entirely apart from the works of the Law. Often called the "Christian Declaration of Independence," it declares that believers are freed from the burden of legalism and the slavery of trying to earn righteousness through human effort.