

GALATIANS 6:11-15

A. Galatians 6:11 - Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand.

1. Paul is not referring to the **length** of the Galatians epistle, but to the **physical** size of the letters on the pages! (Paul did have poor eye sight)
*It hurt Paul to write them, **but** he loved them.
2. Paul also was letting them know **the importance - urgency** of its message, that **he personally** sat down and **penned it himself**. This demonstrated the **seriousness** of the subject of Galatianism that was false.
3. Throughout Galatians, Paul has shown the **difference** between Galatianism and grace, works **or** faith, bondage **or** liberty, flesh **or** Spirit, self-righteousness **or** **God's** righteousness.
4. Also remember that Paul usually did not write his epistles, but used a secretary "or **co-worker**" and "**dictated**" his letters.
 - a. **Example: Romans 16:22** - I Tertius, who wrote *this* epistle, salute you in the Lord.
*I sometimes dictate a letter to Carol and she writes it.
*But Galatians → **Paul says**, "I was **so** concerned about you that I **personally** penned this letter."
 - b. **Note also: I Corinthians 16:21** - The salutation of *me* Paul with mine own hand.
Colossians 4:18 - The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace *be* with you. Amen. Written from Rome to Colossians by Tychicus and Onesimus.
*Paul usually dictated the letter, but **then he personally signed** his epistles. → **II Thessalonians 3:17** - **The salutation of Paul with mine own hand**, which is the token **in every epistle**: so I write.
 - c. Paul personally signed each book for its "**authenticity**" and to **stop** false letters that some tried to use saying it was from Paul. (counterfeits)
II Thessalonians 2:2 - That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, **nor by** word, **nor by letter as from us**, as that the day of Christ is at hand.
*Paul's signature signified it was from Paul and **not** a forgery!
5. There is evidence of Paul's **poor** eyesight.
Galatians 4:13-15 -Ye know how **through infirmity of the flesh** I preached the gospel unto you at the first. **Gal. 4:14** - And my temptation which was **in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected**; but received me as an angel of God, *even* as Christ Jesus. **Gal. 4:15** - Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, **if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me**.
 - a. Where did this physical infirmity come from? **Some say**:
Acts 9:3, 8-9 - And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: **Acts 9:8** - And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought *him* into Damascus. **Acts 9:9** And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

*However, Acts 9:17-18 - And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, *even* Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. Acts 9:18 - And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

Paul was healed (not partially).

- b. Acts 14:19-20 - And there came thither *certain* Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew *him* out of the city, supposing he had been dead. Acts 14:20 - Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

Paul rose up and walked 20 miles (miraculous!). Some say his eye injury happened here, but again healed (not partially).

- c. II Corinthians 12:7, 10 - And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. II Cor. 12:10 - Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

These things were sent by Satan to try and stop Paul! How did Satan buffet **Job**? (things and physically)

But also: This physical "thorn" was an affliction that was a "message" sent to Paul from Satan!

[the messenger of Satan] Satan's errand boy

[a thorn in the flesh] Joshua 23:13 - Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out *any of* these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you. → Is referring to their enemies

Numbers 33:55 - But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell. → Is referring to their enemies

Now Paul describes the legalists - Galatianism - again

- B. Galatians 6:12 - As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.

1. The Judaizers main goal was to gain more converts..get them back under the kingdom program - law.
* | This was so they could boast - brag about their **own** achievements, to look impressive before others.
* | (Religion)
2. [they constrain you to be circumcised;]
*These Jews were putting tremendous "**pressure**" on the Galatian grace believers. They used tremendous "guilt" if one did not obey their teaching.
3. [only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.]
 - a. To avoid being persecuted by Jewish leaders, they held that circumcision was **necessary** to be justified!

- b. If the leading Jewish elders thought these Jews followed grace and faith alone, they would have been accused and **ostracized** from the Jewish community, excommunicated from the synagogues, exploited financially, and physically harmed (great fear was a motive).

C. Galatians 6:13a - For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law;

1. Note: For the believer, keeping the law was neither necessary nor possible!
2. These Judaizers' **reverence** for the law was only a mask! They charged the Galatian Gentile believers that if they were not circumcised, they were not saved! Yet, they themselves were **not** keeping the law and had no intention to do so!
3. Remember Christ speaking: Matthew 22:3-4 - All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, *that* observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. Matt. 23:4 - For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

D. Galatians 6:13b - but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.

1. These Judaizers really did not care about these Galatian believers' salvation - life, but only making Jewish **proselytes** out of Gentiles in order to **boast** of their achievement and be praised by others.
2. Christ had said: Matthew 23:13, 15 - But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in *yourselves*, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. Matt. 23:15 - Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.
3. Then the issue was circumcision, "today" the ordinance of choice is "**baptism**." If you separate from ordinances (Colossians 2:14), Christendom will persecute you.
 - a. Why? Without ordinances it is against **tradition**, against human-merit; and it is the truth of which Satan is against!
 - b. Few today are willing to suffer persecution that comes from preaching a **pure** gospel message. The D.B.R. alone is making the believer complete in Christ and taking away human **help**.
4. These Jews were actually under a curse for not keeping **all** the law!
Galatians 3:10 - For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.
5. Verses 12-13 are a good summary on religion!
 - a. Religion just wants to "**impress** people" with its **big** religious theater of pomp! Religion tries to bring people into **sub**jection by appearance.
 - b. Religion puts its followers under the laws and **rules** to constrain and force obedience in order to **dictate** and "control."
Today people are so afraid to trust grace alone.
 - c. Religion says: yes, you are saved by grace, but if you truly want God's approval, you need to obey - **list** of rules. Religion puts its followers under its performance-based system that is in conformity to its church's traditions.

*The whole issue in religion is to control and to run one's life. If you do not perform, you are not accepted.

- d. [a fair show in the flesh] Religion is designated to satisfy the lust of the flesh..to feel good.. outward appearance is so beautiful. → Rome has its super-structures.

*Los Angeles→ Crystal Cathedral.

- e. Paul shows the difference of being under grace and not under religion.

II Corinthians 1:24 - Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.

*As a pastor, it is not my job to run your life, but to help you in the faith. People should be taught the truth and then allowed to form their own convictions, trusting God's truth to work in you as it is in me.

- f. Religion has to try to control its followers..to tell them what to do and what not to do. (Religion will take your finances.)

- g. Religion always takes its followers back under the Kingdom Program in order to use commands to control and do away with grace living!

*To the unlearned, it is scriptural, thus binding!

E. Galatians 6:14a - But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1. This is our testimony! Faith does away with boasting!
2. The Judaizers' glory - bragged in the number of Gentiles they had forced into being circumcised.
3. Paul makes the contrast of himself when he had been with the Galatians. He would never boast in himself, but only in the cross of Christ.

*The cross demonstrated the person - power - purpose of the cross.

*Salvation and life are all about Him.

Cross → Is about what it meant..what was accomplished there.

4. [God forbid] God protests the idea of anything above the cross.

F. Galatians 6:14b - by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

1. Paul shows what faith in the cross and accomplishments have done in his and our lives.

*Before we were saved, we walked according to the course - direction of this world's system. (II Corinthians 4:4) We were strangers and aliens to God and His covenants, our minds being darkened and with no hope (Ephesians 2:11-ff; 4:18). We were controlled by the world, flesh, and the devil.

2. But now, not only has the cross caused the world to die to us, but we have died to the world in its mastery over us..set free!

Romans 6:11 - Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 12:2 - And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Colossians 1:13 - Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

3. *Note: As a believer, the world's passing interests, uncertain treasures and fading hope no longer are trustworthy to me. No longer does the world have influence in my life, because now the cross and all it means is between us!

Galatians 2:20 - I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Now we are wanderers - pilgrims - strangers! God has taken the veil off, and we now see the world as it truly is.

Paul's Ending to the Galatians

- G. Galatians 6:15 - For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature

Paul states that the issue is no longer circumcision or uncircumcision. The issue now is whether or not one is in Christ making them a new creature and part of God's new creation.

*Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

II Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Ephesians 2:15-16 - Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace; Eph. 2:16 - And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: