

A New Creation

Galatians 6:11-18

Paul closes his argument of law vs grace by telling his former converts that if they add works of the flesh to Jesus work on the cross—they have fallen from grace & nullified Christ work on the cross in their life for salvation.

Jesus plus circumcision, laws of Moses or anything we can do to help God w/ our salvation--Christ will be no benefit to us. It takes away a believers freedom and puts them under a yoke of slavery. Law is outward religion-mans efforts to get to God---cross is inward relationship by the Holy Spirit

11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand.

Importance of the message seen by taking the pen 'w/ what large characters' *Lit see how heavily I press the pen* – Bold, underline. Paul's signature guarantees against forgery—*2Thes 2:2 that you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ½ million refund to CC*

12 Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh try to compel you to be circumcised, simply that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.

False teachers motivation: Put you in their camp, tied to them. *Who desire*, what they delight in...*a good showing*—how they appear-wanting to look good--show themselves above what they really are. *In the flesh*, human nature or materiality (being relevant or significant) all outward show. They do it to *compel you*-driving you or make it necessary by persuasion or threats to be circumcised (*essential for salvation*). So they *not persecuted* by peers (Jesus ok if circumcised) if not they flee as prey from hunter. So Judahizers put on a '*good face*' appearance vs reality *Rev 3:1 Sardis, have a name you alive but dead*. Galatian believers were like *trophies* to glory in, make them look good—*trophy wife*. – To save from persecution-Judahism according to Roman law was legal.

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The sign of a practicing Jew was circumcision so if a Christian was circumcised kept them safe from Jews and Roman government—to appease those who otherwise persecute.

*13 For those who are circumcised do **not even keep the Law themselves, but they desire to have you circumcised, that they may boast in your flesh.***

They desire-design is to empower them *Ken-Chr pilgrims apostle of Islands boast*—glory fact they got you--self interest the motivating factor 'in their camp'

Boast in flesh—draw to themselves, glory that you in their camp--to have power over *AG church* – striving to build reputation instead of Gods kingdom is carnal & fleshly—boast in numbers, facilities, programs, etc is sign of lost focus. –*illus church send Easter fliers to our office, fliers on cars in our parking, stand outside our conference invite to their church, send their bulletin to our people.* When you strive to attain, strive to maintain—now a shadow of beginning ministry—*Boast in flesh Bob Dylan, “ we got Tom Perish*

Not keep law not practice what preach—*Matt 23:4,5b “And they tie up heavy loads, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger. 5 “But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men;---*circumcision is outward—Jesus said *law is spiritual* & inward 'murder-*anger*'; adultery-*lust*'—steal-*covet*

Law intended to show all are guilty-*X ray, mirror* Jn 9:39-41—some of the most outwardly religious people can be some of the most inwardly corrupt—religion will dress robes, staff, hats, chains, cross, sash, backward collars—to impress, influence & intimidate—yet are just as wicked inside as the rest of us--none righteous no not one

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*14 But may it never be that I should **boast**, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been **crucified** to me, and I to the **world**.*

Lord, don't let us boast or glory in ourselves & all the while leave you out.

But glory to God great things He has done. *Head held high—Chuck buttons popping Bud* –Boasting from the right vantage point—God gives confidence for His glory

Crucified-to fortify w/ driven stakes used figuratively of putting the old self to death, destroying its power by laying all decisions & desires before the Lord. No longer living independent of God—*intense pain involved*- *Gal 5:24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh w/ its passions and desires. 1Pet 4:1 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, Can't crucify self*

World-Cosmos-ordered system of the world-it's ornament, decoration, adornment —now usurped by Satan & under his rule-2Cor 4:4 god of this age has blinded...Eph 2:2 ruler of the power of the air (*atmosphere*) Jesus calls Satan prince of this world [John 12:31](#); [John 14:30](#); [John 16:11](#));:

Phil 3:4 if anyone has confidence to boast in the flesh I far more...left to ourselves we'd stroll into heaven '*shine some of that glory light on me*'

Cross-shame & curse to a proud world, speaks of weakness, humiliation, criminal-it's where we all belong-*true replacement theology*-I belong there for my sins **but** Jesus replaced me & took my penalty.

World crucified to me and I to world—cross speaks of death—power of sin (motivating factor) dealt w/ thru cross-know, recon, present **Rom 6**

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World no longer driving force behind my existence or my ID—I'm no longer defined by what world says about me.

15 For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

It is not an outward things but inward, a changed life-Waikiki Randy Tong

New creation—fresh, unused, new in quality not found like this before—unprecedented, unheard of—always of a Divine work **Col 3: 9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, 10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him 11—a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.**

We judge outward—are they like us—do they look like a Christian—act like one. But God looks at the heart and we can't see a person's heart. Outward often covers inward hurt & we only see the outside. *So much good in worst of us and so much bad.....* Hippies kicked out of traditional churches—how are we treating others? Is it how God would treat them?

16 And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

Walk by rule – measuring tape, surveyors line Amos 7:7,8 **7 Thus He showed me, and behold, the Lord was standing by a vertical wall, with a plumb line in His hand. 8 And the LORD said to me, “What do you see, Amos?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said, “Behold I am about to put a plumb line in the midst of My people Israel. I will spare them no longer.—Walk in liberty, gospel of grace, changed life**—internal work of Christ not external works of religion. *Peace* a result of salvation by grace-*Mercy-pity, compassion, empathy-covenant loyalty and love* a manifestation of the outworking of grace--evidence by a changed life. When we experience God's mercy in our life we have it for others.

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Israel of God – not all Israel was of God. Here it is all true believers in Christ *Rom 2:28,29 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. 29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God....*not in name only-outward but inward a changed life.

17 From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus.

Trouble is having to defend calling & teaching against false teachers. *He's the greatest deceiver on NS. Stigmata* 'Francis of Assisi' fasting, contemplating Christ suffering-marks appeared. Early Catholic church, marks on hands, feet, side, brow by sympathetic identification w/ Jesus crucifixion—By 20th C over 320 claims—*Greeks branded slaves*.

Appeared on Paul? His *stigmata* were scars of persecution for preaching gospel of grace. Beaten countless times, 5 times-39 lashes, 3 times-beaten w/ rods, once-stoned **2 Cor 11:23-25**---False teachers wanted to mark Christians by circumcision.

18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

Grace charis – gift, favor, blessing bestowed w/o obligation of return—Bringing Joy & thanksgiving to the recipient & desire to be w/ the grace giver. It is how we began our salvation experience & are to continue in it. In complete opposition to works—they bring bondage--grace gives freedom, security, assurance.

Amen truly--so let it be.