

Gal.6:8-18

Paul's Last Words to the Galatians

vs.8- Paul continues from his statement in vs.7 on sowing and reaping

*this is one of the simplest truths that elude so many

- "flesh"- the Galatians were abandoning faith for Law

(This was an attempt to gain favor with God through their works- flesh)

- "Spirit"- the One that directs to Christ and guides the believer in God's Will- John 14:26, 15:26

*these attempts of the flesh will only lead to what the Law leads to- corruption

(The word "corruption" means destruction or perishing)

vs.9- the Spirit of God is the Spirit of truth- sowing or laboring in the Spirit is "well doing"

*this is simply Paul encouraging them to stay with the Spirit as He will lead them to eternal life

vs.10- the abandoning of faith was a sinful practice- its rebellion against God and His Word

Truth- sin left unchecked will always make a person progressively worse in character

- "let us do"- (ergazomai) to labor or commit oneself

- "good"- (agathos) useful, agreeable, or honorable

- the idea here is to love and serve one another with humility- especially toward other believers

(Jesus says that's how people will know we belong to Him- John 13:35, 15:8)

vs.11- the rest of the chapter Paul writes to rebuke the Judaizers and their motives in contrast to his motives

- "large a letter"- this could be due to his poor eyesight or could mean large block letters like

on a notice - this was different from the normal cursive style written by professional scribes

- "mine own hand"- Paul uses his own handwriting to make sure they know this is no forgery

*the original letter would have looked unprofessional

(This would also contrast the Judaizers as their main focus and concern was appearance)

vs.12- "shew in the flesh"- they put on a good front to win the Galatians favor

- "persecution"- the Judaizers were more concerned for themselves and their own safety than correct doctrine

*by adhering to the Law rather than the Gospel, they could avoid social and financial ostracism

(They were hoping to maintain their protected status as Jews in the Roman Empire)

- even though Claudius had previously banished Jews out of Rome, they were still protected (A few years later when Nero becomes emperor, Christian persecution would be a daily event)

vs.13- meaning that those guys who are compelling you to be circumcised are not observing the whole Law (they were inconsistent and insincere and believed that merely observing circumcision would compensate for not observing the rest of the Law)

- "they may glory"- they desired to recognition for proselyting Gentiles to be circumcised and adopting the legalistic system (their motive was to be able to boast about it)

vs.14- basically Paul is saying that he cannot boast or praise of anything except about how the Lord Jesus paid his sin debt on the cross

Truth- what was a shame to the legalists was the object of praise for Paul

- "crucified"- meaning dead to (death means total separation)

*the world (evil, satanic system, the curse- Gen.3:17) is dead to believers and they are dead to it

vs.15- with salvation coming through faith alone, circumcision has no spiritual advantage

- "creature"- (ktisis) creation, a new founding

- the observing of the Law is man's attempt to gain favor with God in the flesh (Rom.3:20)

vs.16- "this rule"- meaning salvation by faith alone

- "peace" - this comes from the believer's new relationship (also a part of the fruit of the Spirit)
- "mercy" - the forgiveness and the setting aside of the judgment that was deserved
- "the Israel of God" - this is a term Paul gives to distinguish the true people of God

(Meaning those who were in the correct covenant with Him)

vs.17- Paul's apostleship, authority, and message had all been in question

(And he had answered all the criticism)

*He says here- "I'm not gonna hear anymore about people's criticism of me"

- "the marks" - it was common in that day for one to stamp on their bodies the god they worshiped

*the marks Paul speaks of are his physical scars from the stones and scourgings he received
from being a faithful servant of Christ

vs.18- a fitting end- Paul makes mention of grace instead of Law and spirit instead of flesh