



Podcast Notes

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SESSION 8

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RECAP

Emphases in Galatians: legalism vs. freedom, works vs. grace

Battle for the TRUTH of the cross of Christ – the TRUTH of the Gospel

Chapter 5 first half: bondage vs. liberty

Chapter 5 second half: flesh vs. spirit

Chapter 6 first half: living for self vs living for others

Chapter 6 last half: living for the praise of men vs. living for the glory of God (MOTIVE)

GALATIANS 6:11-18

¹¹ See with what large letters I ^[a]am writing to you with my own hand. **Paul employed a scribe to write his letters for him. Usually took the pen and ended with his own farewell: “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”**

Here, he wrote an entire ending PARAGRAPH with his own hand.

¹² Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh try to compel (**constrain; strong persuasion**) **legalists were persuaders** you to be circumcised, simply so that they will not be persecuted **legalists were compromisers (wanted to escape persecution)** ^[b]for the cross of Christ. **Cross was shameful, horrid, not talked about in proper Roman conversation.** ¹³ For those who ^[c]are circumcised do not even keep ^[d]the Law themselves **legalists were hypocrites**, but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh **legalists were braggarts.**

Remember: the cross was shameful and detestable. BUT, Paul gloried in the cross! He gloried in the PERSON, the POWER, and the PURPOSE of the cross.

PERSON of the cross:

¹⁴ But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, **mentions Jesus in 1 out of 3 verses in Galatians (45x)** through ^[e]which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Phil. 3:4b-11

If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

⁷ But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss ^[a]in view of the surpassing value of ^[d]knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, ^[e]for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, ⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and ^[f]the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;¹¹ ^[a]in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

All of Paul's self glory turned to refuse.

The legalists prefer to keep their trash and display it as treasure.

POWER of the cross:

Messiah coming to die on a cross was preposterous theology to "Saul" the Pharisee.

It's power turned him into "Paul" the apostle.

It meant liberty from self, from flesh, from the world

*"The cross ceased to be a stumbling block to him and became, instead, the very foundation stone of his message: "Christ died for our sins." **

Gal 2:20 "For I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who lives, but Christ lives in me. And the life that I now live, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and delivered Himself up for me."

PURPOSE of the cross

¹⁵ For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new ^[f]creation.

Dr. Wiersbe suggests this NEW CREATION is the new CHURCH of Christ.

A new "people" of God.

A new "nation of Israel."

Matt. 21:43

(Jesus said) "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a ^[a]people, producing the fruit of it."

Peter wrote (1 Peter 2:9) But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

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

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

Paul suffered physically for Christ

2 Cor. 11:18-33

PAUL WAS:

Imprisoned numerous times

Beaten "without number"

Often near death

39 lashes 5 times

Beaten with rods 3 times

Stoned once

Shipwrecked 3 times

In dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from *my* countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;

Labor

Hardships

Sleepless nights

Hungry

Thirsty

Cold

Exposed

PLUS the daily pressure of concern for all the churches

Do we ever read of the Pharisees suffering any of these things, much less for the cause of Christ?

Paul closes his letter the same way he began it: with the GRACE of our Lord Jesus Christ!

¹⁸ The grace **not the LAW** of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.