

Main Idea: Actions and behaviors mean nothing; what matters is authentic faith.

Final Instructions

Over the past 6 weeks we have worked our way through a small but important letter to the Galatian churches. Paul wants them to know that they are free, and any entanglement with OT law and ritual is harmful to their faithwalk. In fact, holding on to tradition and ritual may keep them from finding Christ in the first place (see Galatians 5:2b).

In conclusion to his letter, Paul offers final instructions to the churches. He makes one last plea for authentic faith. In doing so he emphasizes his words using a first-century form of CAPS lock (see v.11). Paul lays out the differences between salvation by grace and salvation by works one last time. Three contrasts...

- 1. Outward or Inward Religion (vv.12-13).** The Judaizers were all about the outside. They wanted to impress people. It is very important to worship in a free environment. You won't feel any pressure in a free church to fit in. You will be loved and included from the very beginning because in a free church, we understand that God's work on the inside is the goal. It's lasting and powerful because it's authentic.
- 2. Human or Divine Work (v.14).** The only thing Paul is willing to celebrate is the new life he has found in Jesus Christ. God's divine work is **what matters**. You cannot manufacture or create this kind of standing before God. When my faith in Christ is authentic, it becomes my intention to follow Him and leave behind those things that only satisfy my flesh. Sanctification is divine work. Legalism is human work.
- 3. Self-centered or Christ-centered Living (v.15-16).** The contrast is striking. People who have crucified the old nature are centered on Christ. They can expect eternal peace and mercy (v.16). Those who live for themselves will lead lives of quiet desperation and fear. They do not know where they stand.

Brandmarks

Paul closes his letter reminding the churches that he belongs to Christ – his body bears the marks. At Lystra he was stoned, dragged out of the city, and left for dead (see Acts 14). No doubt the believers at Galatia had witnessed Paul's receiving some of those brandmarks he bore on his body. What kind of brandmarks do you bear? What kind of sacrifices have you made? What unselfish actions have impacted those closest to you? Like Paul, you will be rewarded. One day Jesus will return for his church. Every act of worship and service will be rewarded (see Galatians 6:9-10).

Family Night Big idea – Read Galatians 6:11-18

This is a great opportunity to teach your children the importance of who we are on the inside, not what we look like on the outside. Paul wants us to know that who we are becoming on the inside is most important to God.

- **Elementary School** – Ask, "Why did the false teachers want the people to be circumcised? What did Paul want to boast about? What counts most to God (v.15)? What kind of marks did Paul have on his body?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "Why do peer pressure and public image matter so much to us? Why was Paul driven to 'boast only in the cross'? What should matter most to a follower of Jesus? What marks do you bear for God?"

Prayer: "Heavenly Father We want to concentrate on who we are becoming on the inside. Help us please. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: At the church this Wednesday, Aug. 28, 6:30pm.

Gravity: Today in both services.

Today's Songs

Battle Belongs.....Phil Wickham

Made for More.....Josh Baldwin

Sing Sing Sing.....Chris Tomlin

Grandparents Day

Grandparents are invited to KidsJAM between the services on September 8th for pictures with their grandkids and refreshments. All grandparents are welcome!

CLC Needs Your Help

Candler County Christian Learning Center is a Christian World View Class for students at Metter High School that GCC is supporting. They need snacks and drinks for morning class, and they are looking for van drivers to transport students from MHS to Guido's and back. If you can help, contact Tyler.

Baptism

Our next Baptism Sunday is October 6th. If you are interested or have questions, please use the Communication Card on the other side of this program and either Pastor Mike or Tyler will contact you.