

Faith Fellowship Church  
Notes for Cross Training  
5/19/20  
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(Gal 6:11) Introduction to Paul's personal postscript.

**See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!**

Paul's custom, typical in the ancient world, was to dictate his letters to a secretary. But he would often personally write a short portion at the end, both to authenticate the letter and to add a Paul points out that he wrote his postscript with **large letters**. Many speculate this was because he had poor eyesight and could not read or write

(Gal 6:12-13) A final word regarding the motives of the legalists among the Galatians.

**As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these *would* compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.**

Paul here referred to the legalistic Christians among the Galatians and wrote frankly about their motive – **to make a good showing in the flesh**. They worked to bring the Galatian Christians from a Gentile background under circumcision because it would be a **good showing** for them – but a **good showing in the flesh**.

The legalists *pretended* to be motivated out of concern for the ones they tried to bring under the law. But Paul saw through this deception and saw their motive was really selfish, simply desiring the honor and glory of a **good showing in the flesh**. They wanted the Galatians to become circumcised so they could wear the submission of these Gentiles as a badge of achievement. Even as David had boasted in the two hundred foreskins of the Philistines he had killed, so these legalists wanted the allegiance of these Gentiles primarily as a trophy.

Beyond their own glory, their other motive was to *avoid* **persecution for the cross of Christ**. If these legalists had said, "We are saved only by the work of **the cross of Christ**, not by our obedience under the law," they would have been persecuted. Probably the **persecution** would have come from other legalistic Christians or from those still in Judaism. Their unwillingness to stand in the face of this

(Gal 6:14-15) Paul writes about his motives.

**But God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither**

Paul's heart cared nothing for the **glory** that came from fame. He cared nothing for the **glory** that came from riches. He cared nothing for the **glory** that came from status and power among men. He only cared about the **glory of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**.

It is hard for us to appreciate how *strange* Paul's words are here. For people who knew what crucifixion was all about, the words "**cross**" and "**glory**" just did not go together. They were direct opposites because there was not a more humiliating, shameful way to be executed than **the cross**. It seemed much more logical to *glory* in your *good showing in the flesh*, instead of **the cross**. But Paul thinks and writes with a heavenly logic that surpasses anything of this earth.

In Galatians 5:24, Paul wrote about having *crucified the flesh with its passions and desires*. Now with the *flesh* on the cross he also put **the world** on the cross, and considers himself dead to the world. **The world** could not have any influence over Paul if it were dead, and Paul could not respond to any influence from it if he were dead to **the world**.

The **world**, in the sense Paul means it here, was not the global earth; nor was it the mass of humanity (which God Himself loves, John 3:16). Instead, it was the community of sinful humanity that is united in rebellion against God.

Without doubt, Paul knew Christians had a moral standard to live by (described in passages like Galatians 5:19-21). But what really mattered was not what we do in keeping the law, especially in its ceremonies, but what God has done in us – making us **a new creation**.

We don't make ourselves **a new creation**; God does it in us. At root, Christianity is something God does in us, not something we do for God. This can simply define the difference between the systems of grace and law.

(Gal 6:16) A blessing on those who walk in God's truth.

**And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.**

Just as Paul was willing to pronounce a curse on those who taught false doctrines (Galatians 1:8-9), he was also willing to give a blessing to those who **walk according to this rule**. These are those who are the true **Israel of God**, the descendants of Abraham according to faith.

(Gal 6:17-18) Last words.

**From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.**

**I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus:** Paul wrote as someone who had suffered for Jesus, and who bore those marks on his body. Having suffered so, he can say **from now on let no one trouble me**, in the sense that it is fruitless for anyone to try, because he has already endured the worst.

Edited from Commentary on Galatians by D. Guzik