

~ I HAVE WRITTEN UNTO YOU....

## GALATIANS 6:11 – 18

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~ Our Spiritual Safari concludes another leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God in this report from the wonderful but dreadfully harsh epistle written to the Galatians. Modern men and women are trusting in many things for salvation; some are trusting in good works, some trust participation and membership in certain religious groups – even ethnicity. However, none of those things are sufficient for salvation. So, let's hear directly from Paul the apostle as he bids us farewell again and reveals exactly what it is he had trusted for everything in his life.

We are seeing Paul's personal handwriting in this autographed conclusion to this book of the Bible. We spent a lot of time in this epistle learning what justification by faith means; and what sanctification by the Spirit of God really means; and we learned how to walk in the Holy Spirit. The Christian life has to live, breathe, and walk in reality in the marketplace, school, office, workshop, on the street, in the airport, and in the home and church of the real world – or it doesn't mean anything, friends. Actually, it is frighteningly easy to over-spiritualize the Word of God and literally evaporate it into abject meaninglessness. Most people do that.

What we sow is what we reap. If we sow to the flesh, we're going to reap fleshy stuff. If we sow sin, we will reap sin – let's not make any mistake about that. God has made this abundantly clear in our previous several reports; and if you haven't read them, I suggest you go back and do so now. If you sow to the Spirit of God – and if you are patient – then you're going to reap that harvest, too – in the appointed time. It will always work out this way, friends. This is very important to understand. Robert Louis Stevenson said, "... everyone, sooner or later, will sit down to a banquet of circumstances and consequences." Well, that's pretty good; because the things we have sown will be revealed – one way or another....

***11 Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand.***

~ The epistle to the Galatians is a small epistle consisting of only six chapters. Romans, which deals with the same subjects, is sixteen chapters. So, this isn't a long letter. When Paul says, "...how large a letter..." he seems to be talking about large writing; because he said earlier that the Galatians were willing to 'pluck out their eyes and give them to him.' I don't think that would have been necessary unless Paul had eye trouble; and I believe that is what his 'thorn in the flesh' was, too, by the way. In fact, I am sure of it; because Paul didn't use an amanuensis to write this epistle as he did some of the others....

***12 As many as desire to make a fair show in the flesh, they compel you to be legalists; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.***

~ This is where the Judaeizers were turning in their convert count; and Paul makes a big deal about it. Many so called "Christian leaders" want to turn in a report stating how many people they have saved. Many denominations actually pay their pastors based on this data; which is always a heavily padded lie, by the way. See, the Judaeizers want to get you into legalism so they can report you as their own convert. That's how they stay out of trouble in their church. Beware of the leaven of the Pharisee's.

You will never get into trouble preaching legalism, because it appeals heavily to the natural man. The law was given to curb the actions of our old nature; and most people feel the other person should be curbed. Of course, we learned from Paul that legalism means to reject grace — and professing to practice it means one is not saved. Fleshy people always vote yes on legalism! Each of us want the next person to obey the law; but we don't always want to be the one to do the obeying. We all want to clear the hurdle, but we don't want the hurdle to be too high. That makes legalism very popular; the thing that will make you utterly unpopular will be preaching and teaching the grace of God. The human heart finds the cross offensive, naturally, as we have also seen in previous reports....

***13 For neither they themselves who are legalists keep the law; but they desire to have you keep the law, that they may glory in your flesh.***

**14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.**

**15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.**

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

**17 From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of stigmatisation for the Lord Jesus.**

**18 Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.  
(To the Galatians written from Rome)**

~ Well, this was a relatively quick and easy leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition to conclude the Book of Galatians. As we continue from here, we're going to spend so much time on the desert sands of grace in Psalms you'll think we got lost! Legalism is a dead religion, friends; dead, vain and empty. Now it is time we leave that elementary doctrine behind. If you think you are living by the law, you're just a hypocrite. It's really just that simple.

Between the world and the believer stands the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. That cross will do more to shape our conduct than ten thousand years' worth of legislation. Anyone saved by the grace of God isn't going to be boasting about keeping the law, my friends. Anyone truly saved in a genuine conversion isn't going to be bragging about belonging to a certain church denomination — or how they are a worship leader or officer or preacher or Sunday school teacher. When we glory in the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, we won't be able to boast of anything else; you can just write that down. Has the Spirit of God come into your life and made you a new creation? There is no other way to salvation — only one way — this way — period ~

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