

OUTLINE & NOTES: Galatians 6:11-16

1. Read the large print—don't miss what matters, 6:11.

- (Galatians 6:11 ESV) See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand.

2. Those who emphasize the external miss what truly matters and are exposed for what they truly are, 6:12-13.

- (Galatians 6:12-13 ESV) It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. 13 For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.

A. They are prideful.

They want to look good so they emphasize external practices that “show” a person’s commitment ... faith ... etc.

B. They are forceful.

They attempt to compel others to make them look good.

C. They are fearful and unfaithful.

They fear losing their status so they compromise to fit in and avoid persecution.

D. They are hypocritical.

They demand compliance to outward, religious standards—to which they do not conform—to feed their pride.

Hypocrisy: the practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one’s

own behavior does not conform; pretense.

- (Matthew 23:4 NLT) They crush people with unbearable religious demands and never lift a finger to ease the burden.

3. Those who live by what matters are the true people of God, 6:14-16.

- (Galatians 6:14-16 ESV) But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. 16 And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

- (Galatians 6:16 NLT) May God’s peace and mercy be upon all who live by this principle; they are the new people of God.

- (Galatians 6:16 The Message) All who walk by this standard are the true Israel of God—his chosen people. Peace and mercy on them!

A. The true people of God have nothing to show for themselves but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, 6:14a.

What does that mean?

The world is dead to me, and I am dead to the world. I have no merit in either who I am or what I can do. The saving grace of God through the cross is my only hope.

B. The true people of God know that nothing matters except a new creation—the transforming work of the cross in their lives.

C. The true people of God walk by this principle and live in the peace and mercy of God.



***AVOIDING PERSECUTION FOR THE CROSS OF CHRIST ... **In some situations, especially in an area with a strong works salvation emphasis, it is very convenient to accept a false gospel—such as making water baptism necessary to be saved—to avoid persecution.**

***The Judaizers said that circumcision was necessary to belong to God’s covenant, but their real motivation was fear. They were afraid of what other Jews would say and do if they found out that they were worshiping with Gentiles. It would be much easier to defend their involvement with Christianity if they could say that the Gentiles in their house church kept the law of Moses. **If only the Gentiles would agree to be circumcised like Jews, it would solve everything.** [Ryken, P. G. (2005). *Galatians*. (R. D. Phillips, P. G. Ryken, & D. M. Doriani, Eds.) (p. 271). Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing.]

- (Acts 9:22-23 ESV) But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ. 23 When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him.
- (Acts 13:45 ESV) But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him.

- (Acts 13:50 ESV) But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.

- (Acts 14:2 ESV) But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers.

- (Acts 17:13 ESV) But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds.

- (Acts 21:27 ESV) When the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him.

- (Acts 23:12 ESV) When it was day, the Jews made a plot and bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.

- (Acts 25:7 ESV) When he had arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many and serious charges against him that they could not prove.