



Study Guide 22 July 2018

Series: Galatians

Text: Galatians 6:11-18

Hello! This guide is provided to help facilitate a clear understanding of the Bible passage that was preached the preceding Sunday with a focus on applying God's truths to our lives individually and corporately. As such we encourage you to budget sufficient time for application questions. A recommendation would be to spend at least half your time pondering and discussing questions that are application focused.

Overview of Galatians

Apostle Paul wrote the present letter to the churches of Galatia (1:1; 5:2). He expressed his astonishment on their openness to the judaizers (cf. 1:6) who led people to abide to the law and the works of the flesh as a means of salvation. He defended the doctrine of justification by faith (like in the letters to the Romans) both in its theological (chaps. 3, 4) and practical (chaps. 5, 6) implications. He warned Galatians of the dire consequences of abandoning such essential doctrine.

Big Idea of the Text

Paul draws on the themes from the letter (salvation by faith in Christ's work on the cross, apart from any works of the flesh) and points his readers towards the new creation through Christ's work. He makes it very plain that his opponents seek to glory in their flesh but that God's people glory in the cross alone. Whereas the Judaizers would boast in the marks of circumcision that they inflicted upon their own bodies, Paul indicates that the true marks of following Jesus are the marks of persecution inflicted upon him by others for preaching grace alone. We must not boast in ourselves, but we boast in the cross of Christ.

Opening Question:

Q. What do you tend to boast about?

Let's read:

- Galatians 6:11-18

11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. **12** 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. **14** 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.

17 From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. **18** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

Q1. Why are the circumcision party forcing the Galatian Christians to get circumcised for salvation? (v12-13) [1]

Q2. How would outward keeping of the law allow the Judaizers to avoid persecution for the cross (v. 12)? [2]

Q3. What does this tell us about what they (the Judaizers) most want in life? (In other words, what they are trusting and worshipping?) [1]

Q4. How is real Christianity different, according to verses 14-15? [1]

Q5. What four things does boasting in the cross (or living by faith) produce (v 16-18)? [1]

Q6. Why are each of these a consequence of loving and living for Jesus, do you think? [1]

Q7. How do these show us how the Israel of God (v16, the church) must be different from the world?

Q8. Consider accomplishments you are tempted to boast about. How can you turn those around and give credit to Christ? [2]

Q9. How would you summarize the letter of Galatians?

Q10. What have you learnt from the series on Galatians, or how have you been encouraged? How have you been challenged to seek gospel unity through this letter?

[1] Tim Keller, *Galatians: Gospel Matters*, The Good Book Guide to Galatians, (UK: The Good Book Company, 2013), 82-83.

[2] John Stott, *Galatians: Experiencing the Grace of Christ*, John Stott Bible Studies, (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998), 58-61.

References

Keller, Timothy. *Galatians: Gospel Matters*. The Good Book Guide to Galatians. UK: The Good Book Company, 2013.

Stott, John. *Galatians: Experiencing the Grace of Christ*. John Stott Bible Studies. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.