

Glory in the Cross

Galatians 6:1-18

April 7, 2019

I. Introduction (1:1-10)

A. The Apostolic Greeting (1:1-5)

- 1. Author (1:1-2a)**
- 2. Audience (1:2b)**
- 3. Greeting (1:3-5)**

B. Rebuke: the occasion of the letter (1:6-10)

Where we would normally expect to find an apostolic blessing, we hear instead an apostolic curse!

- 1. Paul's amazement at their departure (1:6-7)**
- 2. A curse on those who proclaim or receive a false gospel (1:8-9)**
- 3. Paul's model of not trying to please people (1:10)**

II. Using autobiography, Paul defends his apostleship and gospel (1:11-2:21)

A. Paul's gospel comes directly from God (1:11-24)

B. The Apostles endorse Paul's ministry and gospel (2:1-10)

1. Paul travels to Jerusalem (2:1-5)

2. The Pillars gave Paul and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship (2:6-10)

C. Paul consistently was committed to the true gospel (2:11-21)

1. Paul rebuked Peter at Antioch which proves his apostolic authority (2:11-14)

2. Paul proclaims the biblical gospel: both Jews and Gentiles are justified by faith alone (2:15-20)

III. Using doctrine, Paul defends Justification is by faith alone (3:1-4:31)

- A. The Holy Spirit is received by faith alone (3:1-5)**
- B. Gentiles become sons of Abraham by faith alone (3:6-14)**
- C. If the Law does not save, then what is the Purpose of the Law? (3:15-29)**
- D. Through the cross, Christ makes us Sons (4:1-7)**
- E. Paul's concern for the Galatians (4:8-31)**
 - 1. Returning to the Jewish Law would be like returning to paganism (4:8-11)**
 - 2. Paul makes a personal appeal to the Galatians to abandon the Law and cling to the gospel (4:12-20)**
 - 3. Paul makes a personal appeal using an analogy: the true sons of Abraham are children of the promise, not the law (4:21-31)**

IV. Using duty, Paul exhorts the Galatians to walk by faith in the power of the Holy Spirit (5:1-6:10)

A. THE MAIN POINT OF GALATIANS: The freedom given by Christ liberates believers from the Law (5:1-6) *this is boasting in the cross*****

1. Maintain a firm stance in your freedom from the Mosaic Law (5:1-5)

2. Gospel freedom is living by faith which produces love (5:5-6)

B. Paul exhorts the Galatians to resist the Judaizers (5:7-12)

1. The Law hinders, rather than helps run the race (5:7-10)

2. The Judaizers persecute Paul because he does not preach circumcision (5:11-12)

C. The Law cannot provide power to overcome the cravings of the flesh. Therefore, walk by faith in the power of the Spirit (5:13-26)

1. Christian freedom is freedom from sin not freedom to sin (5:13-15)

2. The ministry of the Spirit (not the Law) defeats the impulses of the flesh (5:16-24)

3. Paul commands the Galatians to walk by the Spirit (5:25-26)

IV. Using duty, Paul exhorts the Galatians to walk by faith in the power of the Holy Spirit (5:1-6:10)

D. The freedom to serve others through love (6:1-10)

1. Love others by restoring a sinful brother (6:1)

- Legalists condemn a sinful brother

2. Love others by bearing their burdens (6:2-5)

- Prideful people refuse to bear other's burdens (6:3)

- Legalists add to, instead of bear, other's burdens

- We boast in how God enables us to bear our own loads (6:4-5)

3. Love others by doing good to them (6:6-10)

- The student provides for the teacher (6:6)

- The absence of law does not mean the absence of consequences (6:7-9)

- Using our time/money/resources for spiritual matters reaps a spiritual harvest

- Legalists want to promote their own agenda

- Do good to every person (6:10)

V. Conclusion (6:11-18)

A. The Legalist's ministry differs from true gospel ministry (6:11-16)

1. The Legalist's ministry (6:12-13)

- They emphasize the external instead of the internal/spiritual (6:12a)
- They want to avoid persecution (6:12b)
- They boast in the size of their following (6:13)

2. The ministry of the true gospel preachers (6:14-15)

- We boast in Christ's work of salvation (6:14)
- We brag about God for His work of conversion: new nature, with new desires, affections, and abilities (6:15)
 - Through the cross: I have a new relationship to sin and I have a new relationship to Christ.
- Paul pronounces a blessing on those who continue to teach salvation by the cross alone (6:16)

V. Conclusion (6:11-18)

- A. The Legalist's ministry differs from true gospel ministry (6:11-16)**
- B. Since the Legalists never suffered for the truth, Paul's suffering proves the genuineness of his gospel (6:17)**
- C. The Final Blessing (6:18)**

The Message of Galatians

I. Faith is foundational in Justification (1-4)

➤ What to believe

II. Faith is foundational in Sanctification (5-6)

➤ How to behave

Paul does not teach, “we are justified by faith and sanctified by law.”

Galatians

- I. Introduction (1:1-10)**
- II. Using autobiography, Paul defends his apostleship and gospel (1:11-2:21)**
- III. Using doctrine, Paul defends Justification is by faith alone (3:1-4:31)**
- IV. Using duty, Paul exhorts the Galatians to walk by faith in the power of the Holy Spirit (5:1-6:10)**
- V. Conclusion (6:11-18)**