



**BOASTING**

**IN**

**THE**

**CROSS**

Lesson 14 for September 30, 2017

**Paul's closing formula is actually an appeal for the Galatians.**

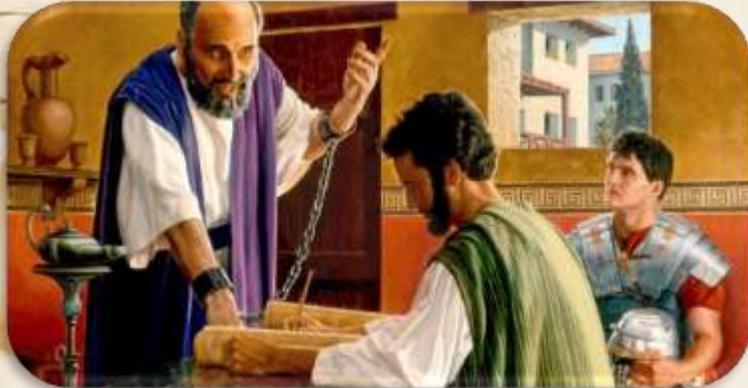
**Paul was like a shepherd taking care of his flock. He wanted to imprint the truths of faith in the mind of the Galatians. Thus, he pointed them to the cross of Jesus again, the only reason for boasting in this life and forever.**



- 1. With large letters. Galatians 6:11.**
- 2. Boasting in the flesh. Galatians 6:12-13.**
- 3. Boasting in the cross. Galatians 6:14.**
- 4. A new creation. Galatians 6:15.**
- 5. The marks of the Lord Jesus. Galatians 6:16-18.**

# WITH LARGE LETTERS

**"See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!" (Galatians 6:11)**

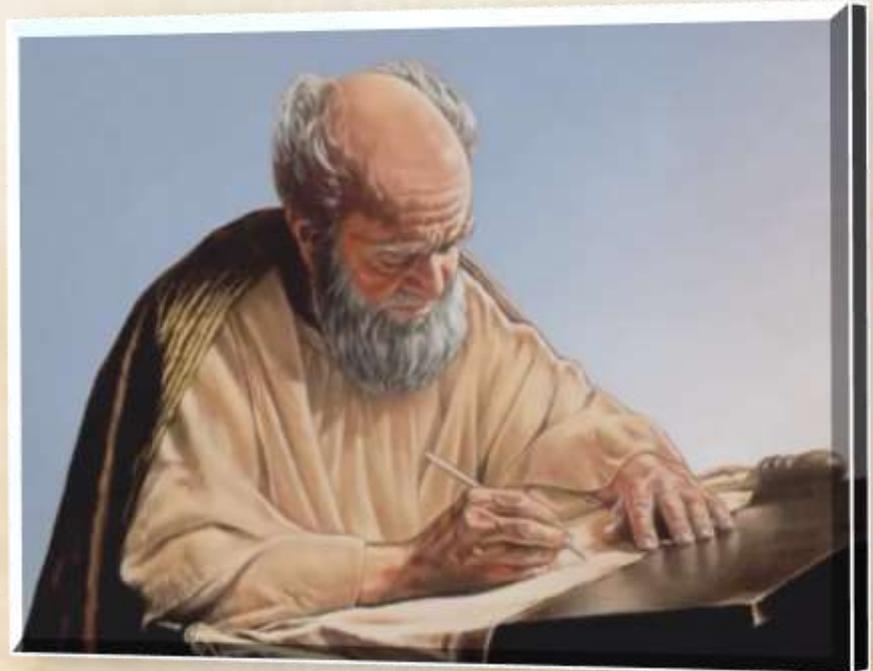


**Paul had ocular issues, so he didn't write his own letters but dictate them to scribes like Tertius (Romans 16:22). Nevertheless, he used to write some words himself (2 Thessalonians 3:17).**

**The closing section of the letter to the Galatians is different from other Paul's letters:**

- 1. He didn't mention personal greetings, since their relationship was tense.**
- 2. Paul wrote a last reprimand written by himself.**

**It's obvious that he wanted the Galatians to take his warnings and reprimands seriously.**



# BOASTING IN THE FLESH

“For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.” (Galatians 6:13)

Paul revealed the actual motivation of the Judaizers that were upsetting the Galatians.

They wanted to “make a good showing in the flesh.” They were acting to be approved and applauded by the Galatians, to feed their ego.



They also tried to “not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.” They’d rather convert Gentile Christians to Judaism than having a confrontation with their compatriots. It was much easier for them to make everyone act and believe the same, no matter what the actual truth was.

They preferred recognition and respect that suffering for Christ. “And all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” (2 Timothy 3:12).



Galatians 6:14

# BOASTING IN THE CROSS

**"But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."** (Galatians 6:14)

**Paul didn't boast in the flesh like the Judaizers did, but in the cross.**



**The cross was an offensive symbol at that time. That's how criminals paid for their misdemeanor, a horrible death. How could he boast in such a symbol?**

**The cross of Christ changes everything. We have died with Christ, so the world can no longer enslave us.**



**Boasting in the flesh and boasting in the cross are two mutually exclusive options. We must choose one every day.**



# A NEW CREATION

*"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation." (Galatians 6:15)*

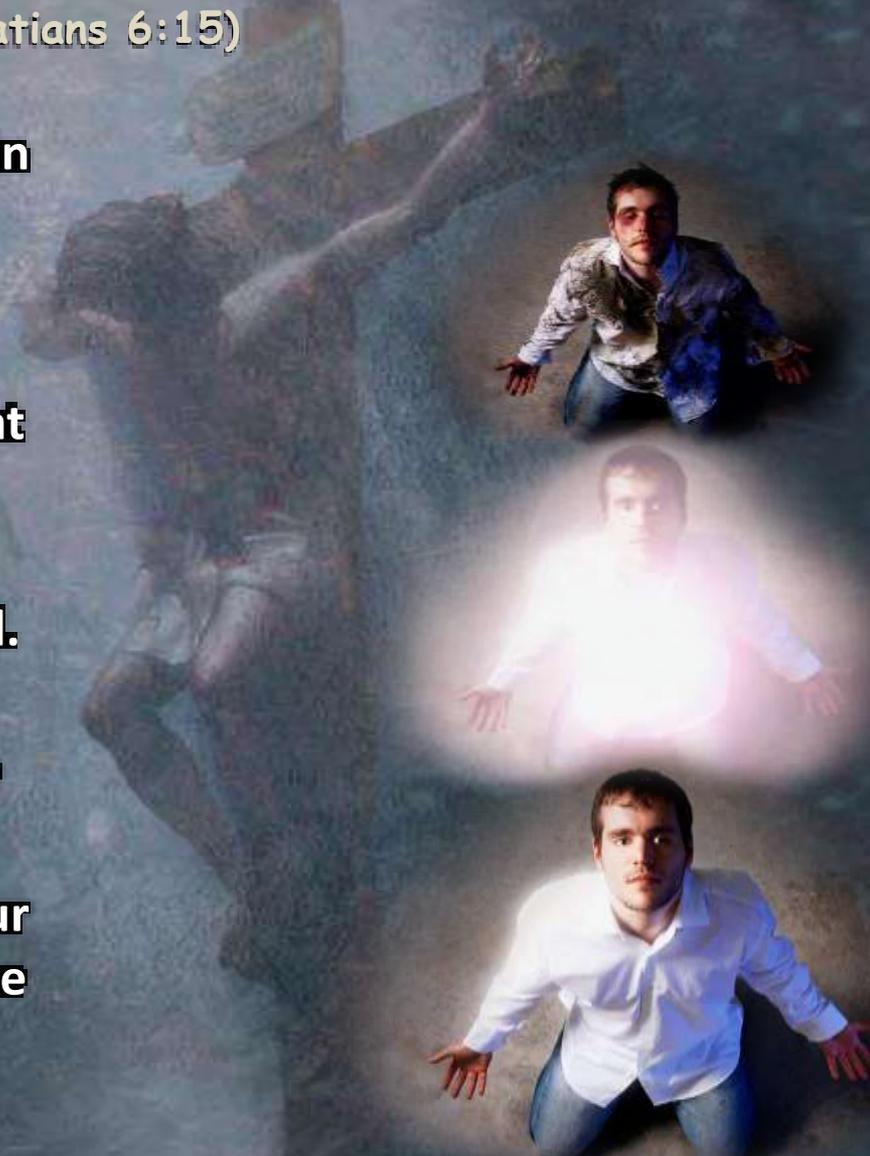
**Paul's letter to the Galatians is summarized in that sentence.**

**We are legalists when we seek salvation in either what we do or what we stop doing. Salvation doesn't rely on our acts but in what God is doing in us.**

**True religion is not a certain external behavior but surrendering our hearts to God.**

**There's nothing we can do to be a new creation. Only the Creator can bring new life to the spiritually dead.**

**When we are justified, a change begins in our lives. We stop being people who try to please the world and we become believers who want to please God.**



# THE MARKS OF THE LORD JESUS



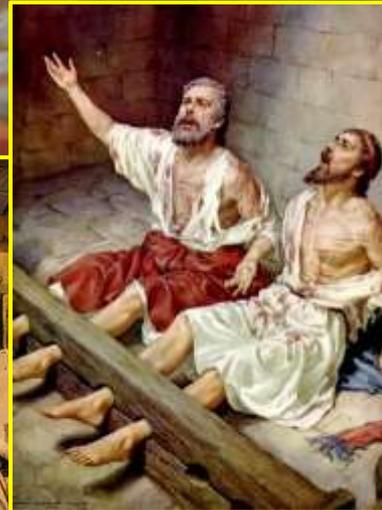
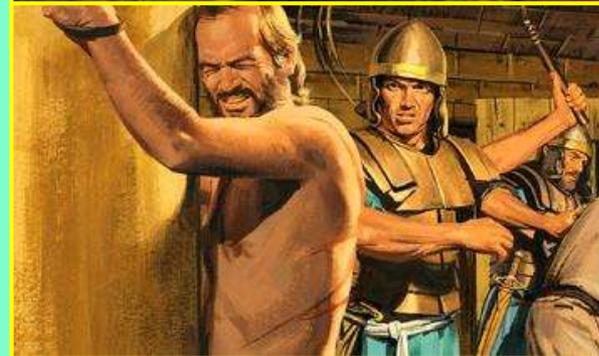
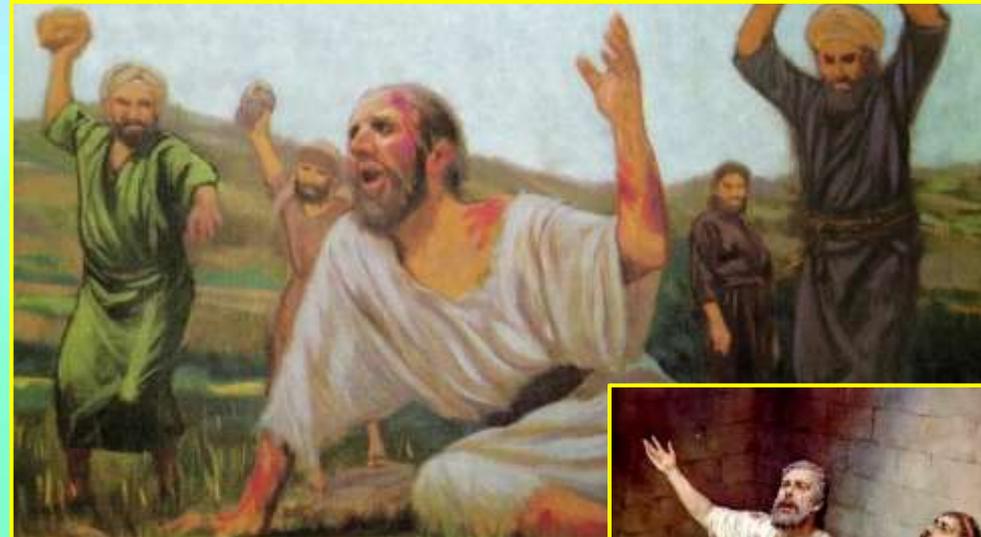
“And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.” (Galatians 6:16)

Peace and mercy follow those who live according to the rule (measurement, canon, standard) Paul introduced; that is, justification by faith in Christ alone.

We don't become part of God's true Israel by being physical sons and daughters of Abraham, but by being justified by faith in the Messiah.

Paul settled their argument: “From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.” (Galatians 6:17).

The marks that supported Paul's authority are the wounds caused in his flesh as he was serving his Master (2 Corinthians 11:23-28).



**“He who is trying to reach heaven by his own works in keeping the law is attempting an impossibility. There is no safety for one who has merely a legal religion, a form of godliness. The Christian’s life is not a modification or improvement of the old, but a transformation of nature. There is a death to self and sin, and a new life altogether. This change can be brought about only by the effectual working of the Holy Spirit.”**