

# BOOK OF GALATIANS

## “*The Cross of Christ*”

Scripture Reading: GALATIANS 6:12-18

- ) **SLIDES 1-6**. Bible Jeopardy!
- ) **SLIDES 7-9**. Read today’s Scripture text.
- ) **SLIDE 10**. Today we conclude our expository study of the Book of GALATIANS. This is message #47. I have titled today’s message “*The Cross of Christ*” (6:12).
- ) Let me do the math for you. There are 260 chapters in the 27 books of the NT. It took us 47 weeks to get through 6 chapters of this Book of GALATIANS. At that rate, it will take us 2036 weeks to get through the entire NT. That is over 39 years. That means I’ll be 106 when we finish. Let’s get started.
- ) **SLIDE 11**. GAL 6:12. Last week I said the two main themes that run through the conclusion of this letter are this: 1) “*The desire to make a good showing*” (we talked about that at length last week) and 2) “*they will not be persecuted.*” Today we will focus on “*they will not be persecuted.*”
- ) One thing that is obvious about the human condition is that we want to be able to have our cake and eat it too.
- ) “*Sure, I’ll drive the school bus as long as my route is on the good side of town with those well-behaved kids. Sure, I’ll help you do some work around town as long as we don’t have to be near those homeless people. Sure, I’ll go to church with you as long as I don’t have to put money in the basket when it comes around.*”
- ) Quite often we agree to do things as long as the conditions for doing so are under our terms. We’ll do it, BUT, we’ll do it our way—under OUR terms and conditions.

- ) *“Listen, I just don’t want those misbehaving kids on my bus bothering me. Listen, I just don’t want to be around dirty people who smell bad. Listen, I earned this money and I’ll give it when and where I want.”*
- ) The false teachers infiltrating the churches in the area of Galatia were no different. Their motives were all about self by pleasing others, and their terms and conditions would be that what they taught had keep them from Jewish persecution.
- ) **SLIDE 12.** But, preaching the cross of Christ and the cross alone guarantees persecution. GAL 6:17. When the apostle Paul writes v17, he is talking about all the physical punishment and persecution he encountered on his missionary journeys.
- ) **SLIDE 13.** 2 CORINTHIANS 11:23-28. Explain.
- ) **SLIDE 14.** MATTHEW 5:12. Standing for the cross of Christ does have eternal rewards. But remember that the prophets in the OT stood for the Word of God and they were persecuted. And now in the NT when you stand for the Word of God you will be persecuted too.
- ) So, as Christians, can we have our cake and eat it too? Can we have Jesus without the persecution? Here is the mindset of the Galatian false teacher who believed they could have their cake and eat it too.
- ) **SLIDE 15.** As long as I throw in **CIRCUMCISION**, the Jews are happy and I avoid persecution. It begins with a false message to please certain interest groups (Judaizers). Today it means being PC and not offending anyone.
- ) **SLIDE 16.** As long as I speak a **CONVINCING** message, the people are happy and I gain their favor. It continues with a charismatic approach to win the people over.
- ) **SLIDE 17.** As long I can make a good **SHOWING** for myself, I am happy and will continue preaching circumcision. It ends with praises going to me and I feel good about that.

- ) In Galatia, this worked. The Jews are happy; the people are happy; and I am happy. Don't make waves and we'll all get along. It's a win-win-win situation. I CAN have my cake and eat it too. And the false teaching just goes around in circles.
- ) And, unfortunately, this circle or error works today.
- ) **SLIDE 18**. There is something synonymous about what one teaches with how one can boast about the results of that teaching. GAL 6:13-14. There are only two choices.
- ) **SLIDE 19**. If one preaches a false gospel, that gives one the opportunity to boast in **MANY** ways about oneself. If one preaches the true gospel, that gives one the opportunity to boast in only **ONE** way—the way of the cross of Christ.
- ) **SLIDE 20**. EPH 2:8. This is basic Christianity soteriology—how one gets saved.
- ) **SLIDE 21**. What happened before that? ROM 10:17. If you are saved, then at some point in time you heard the gospel—you heard the Word of Christ. You had faith in that Word. And that saving faith saved you.
- ) **SLIDE 22**. ROM 10:14-15. This is the progression of a salvation experience. The Word is preached, someone hears, believes, and then calls on the name of the Lord (10:13).
- ) Question. When, where, how, and through who did you come to saving faith in your life? Mom? Dad? A Sunday school teacher? Someone on TV? The radio? A preacher in a church? Or maybe it was a series of events where some planted and some watered and you cannot pinpoint a date, a time, or a person. And that list can go on and on. And we all have different stories.
- ) And maybe YOU were a seed-planter. Or maybe YOU were a waterer in the salvation of another person. And maybe YOU were there when their eyes were open to the truth of the gospel—when they called on the name of the Lord.

- ) Those are all exciting times when we know that we were, in some way, a part of someone coming to Christ.
- ) But this is where we need to move out of the way. Why? Because we are doing nothing more than obeying the command of the Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations (MATT 28:19-20).
- ) **SLIDE 23.** Where is the praise and where is the glory and where is all the boasting directed towards? GAL 6:14. The cross. The cross. We don't do the saving. The Word of God does the saving. The cross of Christ does the saving.
- ) **SLIDE 24.** ROMANS 1:16-17. Question. What and/or who has the power for salvation? Not me. Not you. God.
- ) **SLIDE 25.** 1 CORINTHIANS 1:17-18. Paul wants to make sure in these verses that it was not his persuasive speech or his magnificent articulation of words that convinced anyone to be saved. The power is in these words (Bible) not my words or your words. The power is in the cross of Christ.
- ) It amazes me that in today's world church after church think the process of winning souls is by fancy marketing campaigns, loud praise bands, teaching they can get rich quick, or on-stage antics which only feed the carnality of the unsaved.
- ) What saves people today is the same thing that saved people 2,000 years ago, The gospel of the cross of Christ. I have a sin problem, you have a sin problem, everyone in this world has a sin problem and the only way that sin problem is cured is by believing in the forgiveness provided by the cross of Jesus Christ. That's why Paul writes this.
- ) **SLIDE 26.** GAL 6:15-16. Forget about the Law. Forget about works. Forget about that amazing praise band with the fog and light show. Forget about the free coffee and donuts before the service. It's all about the cross of Christ. And when it starts being about something else, it's time to find another church.

- ) **SLIDE 27.** GAL 6:15. BGCC, the gospel is all about the salvation of lost souls. And a new creation only happens when one hears and believes the good news of the cross of Christ.
- ) **SLIDE 28.** GAL 6:12. And the false teachers in Galatia didn't have enough spine to preach the true gospel simple so that they will not be persecuted. How sad. No wonder Paul is so upset in this letter.
- ) **SLIDE 29.** Joel Osteen clip. This man is one of those false teachers the apostle Paul is warning us about.
- ) The Book of GALATIANS. It's been a wonderful 47-week journey. We began this study on 2/2/2020. We had to take some time away from this book due to the corona virus and other messages that were relevant at that time. But in 47 weeks we have covered as much as we could possibly cover. Hopefully we have left no stone unturned.
- ) So, where do we go from here? I want to take the next few weeks to explain the gospel. If the gospel is what saves, and Paul is so adamant about getting the gospel right, then what is the gospel? Let's make sure we have it right too.
- ) Then after that, we will begin an expository study of another NT book.
- ) **SLIDE 30.** I'll end this series with the same words the apostle Paul ended this letter to the Galatians. "*BGCC, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.*"

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