

Galatians Chapter 6

Verse 13

1. Paul continues to reveal the heart of the Judaizers. Paul exposes their sheer hypocrisy.
2. They wanted to place the yoke of the law on these Gentile believers (**Acts 15:24**), yet they themselves could not keep the law.
 - Peter made it clear at the Jerusalem Council in **Acts 15:10** that the law was a yoke that nobody could bear.
 - A great parallel passage is **Romans 2:17-25**. It is total hypocrisy to think that the circumcision of the law makes you a cut above others when you break the law in attitude and action.
3. This still happens in churches so often today. There are certain things that people "do" that distinguish them as a cut above others. It is supposed to mark them as truly spiritual.
 - It is a performance-based system designed to keep people in line and make the church and its leaders look good.
 - When the people look the part and act the part, the leadership can glory (boast) in their fleshly performance.
4. This was what was going on in Galatia.
 - These same types of religious charades go on today.
 - The circumcision of our day is the area of baptism. Churches want to dunk as many as they possibly can so they can report, "We had 500 baptized, etc." They dunk people who haven't been dealt with carefully regarding salvation, they dunk kids with no understanding of the gospel, they dunk kids and teens that have been baptized multiple times before, they dunk people who were baptized before (either in their church or another church).
 - They desire to have you baptized that they may glory in your flesh.
 - It is disgusting. If they could only see the great damage they are doing to the cause of Christ on this earth.

Verse 14

1. If every Christian lived in the realization of this verse, there would never be trouble and contention in churches, marriages, or families.
2. The Jewish legalists were glorying (boasting) in how many converts they could persuade to their performance-law-based system.
3. But Paul proclaims that he will not glory (boast) in anything other than the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Paul was not referring to the actual wood that Christ was nailed to. It was most likely burned or destroyed some other way.
 - Paul was also not referring to the **emblem** of the cross itself. Paul did not have in mind a gold cross around his neck when he wrote this. Have you noticed that the world loves the **emblem** of the cross, but they despise its message?

1 Corinthians 1:23

- To Paul, the cross was not an emblem or picture. It was a reality. When Paul refers to the cross he is referring to the finished work of atonement that was accomplished on the cross.
4. At one time Paul was a man who would boast in his fleshly accomplishments, but not any more. He now had only one boast - the accomplishments of Christ on the cross. **Philippians 3:3-9**
 - The "by whom" makes clear that Paul is referring to the Person of the cross, not a physical emblem to be revered, worshipped, or admired.
 5. Notice that Paul says, "*...by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.*"
 6. "The world" speaks of the Satanic world system that is operative on the earth today.
 - Jesus called Satan "*the prince of this world.*" **John 14:30**
 - The whole world is said to lie in wickedness. **1 John 5:19**
 - Satan and his demons are said to be rulers of the darkness of this world. **Ephesians 6:12**
 - The spirit of antichrist is said to be in the world. **1 John 4:3**
 7. As believers in Christ, God's Spirit has placed us into Christ, and we are no longer part of this world system. **Galatians 1:4**
 8. We are now identified with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. **Romans 6:3-4**
 - Because I am crucified with Christ, this means that I am dead to Satan's world system, and it is dead to me.
 - While I **physically** have to live in this world, I am **spiritually** dead to it. I am no longer a part of it. A separation has occurred.
 9. I died to Satan's worldly kingdom, but I was raised up a new person in Christ and I have been made to live in a new kingdom, the heavenly kingdom of Jesus Christ. **Colossians 1:13-14; 2 Timothy 4:18**
 - When a Christian loves the world and lives like this world is his home, this is the ultimate contradiction. We are not part of this kingdom. Our inheritance lies in the heavenly kingdom of Jesus Christ. **Colossians 3:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:1-8**