

Series "No Other Gospel"
"Ministry Motives"
Galatians 6:11-18
Part-17

Paul is dealing with motives, and there is no greater need in our churches today than for an examination of the motives for our ministries.

We know what we are doing, but do we know why we are doing it? "Sermon On The Mount," **Matthew 5-7** – All about the heart! Beatitudes (Character), Influence, Righteousness.

Paul's motives are clearly revealed through his writings in the NT,
1 Corinthians 4:1-5.

Galatians 6:1-10 – Living For Self Or Living For Others.

Galatians 6:11-18 – Living For The Praise Of Men Or The Glory of God.

The Thought Of The Passage: "A Genuine Relationship With God Is Through Faith, Which Is Divinely Empowered, And Is One That Behaves."

1. Verses 11-12 – Outward Or Inward

2. Verses 13-16 – Human Or Divine

3. Verses 17-18 – Critics And Believers

1. Verses 11-12 – Outward Or Inward:

Galatians 6:11 – "See with what large letters I am writing to you" – Paul had just spoken to the Galatians about "Doing Good," Galatians 6:4-10 – Living For Self Or Living For Others.

"See" – "Oh look, or behold;" Paul wanted to turn their attention from what he had written to how he had written.

His standard signature was, 1 Thessalonians 5:28 – "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."

2 Thessalonians 3:17-18

Why did Paul write this paragraph, and why did he use such large letters?

Some speculate that Paul had an eye ailment: He contracted Malaria when he came to the Galatians, Galatians 4:13-15.

Paul loved these Christians and was willing to suffer to get the message out!

Galatians 6:12 – “good showing” – One Greek word that is a compound word “good” and “face;” It means “to put on a good face.”

Christianity is inward that becomes outward. Not outward that becomes inward!

“compel” – “strong persuasion;” It is the idea of selling something.

We are to present the Word in truth and sincerity, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.

We are not salesman but ambassadors of Jesus Christ!

“simply so that they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.” – The reason that these false teachers wanted these Christians to be circumcised is that they too would not be persecuted for following Jesus Christ.

Galatians 3:13

The cross declares that man’s sin is so great that God had to send His son to die in order to redeem mankind!

External Versus Internal.

2. Verses 13-16 – Human Or Divine:

Galatians 6:13

“For those who are circumcised do not even keep the Law themselves,” – Matthew 23:3-4.

They don’t keep it because they can’t keep it! Impossible to keep the law in our own strength. (Law Exposes, Does Not Cleanse)

“but they desire to have you circumcised, so that they may boast in your flesh.” – Matthew 23:15.

Galatians 6:14

It is impossible to boast in ourselves and the cross. It is either one or the other!

The Person Of The Cross: “of our Lord Jesus Christ,” – Jesus Christ is mentioned 45X in Galatians. That means that 1/3 of the verses speak about Jesus Christ.

The Power Of The Cross: "through which the world has been crucified to me," – That the world no longer has control over the life of the Christian; Self, flesh.

Matthew 16:24

Self – Galatians 2:20.

Flesh – Galatians 5:24.

"and I to the world."

The world loves religious people. Because it is all self-effort.

The Purpose Of The Cross: Galatians 6:15.

"but a new creation." – This new creation is what we call "The Church."

The Believer – 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Galatians 6:16 – "And those who will walk by this rule," – Literally, "measuring rod;" The Scriptures, the doctrine of the apostles.

"peace and mercy be upon them," – The peace with God and peace of God, which comes from faith in Jesus Christ.

"and upon the Israel of God." – Believers today may not be "Abraham's children" in the flesh, but we are "Abraham's seed through faith in Jesus Christ," Galatians 4:28-29. We have experienced a circumcision of the heart that is far more effective than physical circumcision, Romans 2:29.

3. Verses 17-18 – Critics And Believers:

Galatians 6:17

His Critics: "From now on let no one cause trouble for me," – can literally be read, "Let no one render toils or hardships to me." The emphasis is on the "trouble" or physical and mental anguish.

"for I bear on my body the brand-marks" – "stigma" (stigmata) – "of Jesus." – It was common in the pagan cults of Paul's day to have a person's god branded onto their bodies. Slaves were branded to show who the owner was; Soldiers.

Paul had gone through much for the sake of his love for the Lord, 2 Corinthians 11:22-30.

Sin brands a person. It may mark their mind, personality, even their body. How much better it is to love Christ and live for Him and be “branded” for His glory.

Paul is saying that he has marks on his body to prove that he is committed to Jesus.

Galatians 6:18 – The Believers: “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit,” – This is how Paul started the letter, Galatians 1:3 – “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,”

“Brethren” – Paul is writing to Christians that have been deceived into returning back to the Law but were still believers.

“Amen.” – “so be it, let it be so.”

Application:

1. We Must Decide Whether We Will Have A Relationship With God That Places Importance On The Inward Or Merely The Outward.
2. We Must Decide Whether We Will Place Our Dependence Upon The Human Or Divine.
3. We Must Be Determined That What We Believe Matches Up With How We Behave.