

I. PAUL CAUTIONS THE GALATIANS CONCERNING THE FALSE MOTIVES OF THOSE WHO TEACH LAW FOR PRESENT TENSE SALVATION. VS. 12

A. Legalistic men focus upon making an appearance in the flesh.

1. “As many” (hosoi) so many as; whosoever falls into this category.
2. “Desire” is thelo (pres. Act. ind.) they are continually desiring to do this versus living in their position.
3. “To make a fair shew” translates euprosopeo
  - a) “Eu” -- good
  - b) “Prosopon” -- is used literally of the face of a person and metaphorically of how something appears to the eye. 2 Co. 10:7 (of looking on things from the outward appearance)
  - c) Other definitions include:
    - (1) ***“To be specious (superficial, misleading appearance), plausible.”*** -- Liddell and Scott
    - (2) ***“To wear a specious exterior in the earthly, unspiritual element in which they move. The desire to make a good appearance irrespective of inward truth and righteousness, is prompted by the unrenewed, fleshly nature, and makes its fair showing in that sphere.”*** -- Charles Ellicott

B. Legalistic men constrain others to join them in the flesh.

1. “In flesh” is a term used to emphasize life that is lived out in the body. Cf. Phil. 1:22 (of life conducted in the human body); Eph. 2:11 (of the nationality of one); Gal. 2:20 (of Paul who emphasizes Christ life); Phil. 3:4 (of those who put confidence in religious works done in the human body)
2. “They constrain you to be circumcised” --
  - a) “Constrain” -- anagkazo -- to compel someone to do a thing by necessity. (pres. Act. par. Notes that they were doing it at that time). Cf. Gal. 2:3, 14 (a calling card of legalist)
  - b) “Circumcision” is peritome -- the rite of the cutting of the foreskin that symbolized those who belonged to the nation Israel. Cf. Rom. 9:4; Gal. 2:7, 8, 9; 2:12; 5:6,11

C. The purpose of their constraints is to avoid persecution for the cross of Christ.

1. “Only lest” is an idiom comprised of hina ma monon -- only unless.
2. “They should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ”
  - a) “Persecution” is the word dioko (pres. Pas. subj.) to pursue someone due to beliefs. Cf. Gal. 5:11 (preaching of the cross brings persecution); 2 Tim. 3:12 (those who live godly in Christ promised to suffer)

- b) “The cross of” looks at the work the Lord accomplished that men don’t trust in. cf. Phil. 3:18

## II. PAUL CAUTIONS THE GALATIANS CONCERNING THE HYPOCRISY OF THE LAW TEACHERS. VS. 13

- A. The irony of legalist is that they themselves do not keep the law.
  - 1. “Circumcised” (pres. Act. part. they are a group that continually circumcising)
  - 2. They do not “keep” (phulasso -- to guard) any law (without the article). Cf. 2 Tim. 5:21 (to observe); 1st Tim. 6:20 (keep that which is entrusted)
  
- B. The legalist desired the Galatians to be circumcised that they may glory in their flesh.
  - 1. “But desire to have you circumcised”
  - 2. “That they may glory in your flesh”
    - a) “That” (hina) for the purpose.
    - b) “Glory” is kauchaomai (express confidence in)
    - c) “In your flesh” cf. Gal. 2:1-14

## III. PAUL EMPHASIZES THE BELIEVER’S PROPER FOCUS. VS. 14-15

- A. Paul considers boasting upon the basis of fleshly appearance to be a thing to never be considered.
  - 1. “God forbid” is a statement used by the apostle in the New Testament concerning things a believer should never give consideration to. Rom. 6:2 (concerning continuing in the sin nature); Rom. 9:14 (as to whether God is unrighteous); 1st Co. 6:15 (as to whether
  - 2. “That I should boast” -- kauchaomai which is to express confidence in one’s own ability to accomplish a matter. Cf. 2 Co. 11:18; 2 Co. 5:12 (legalist boast after the flesh) 2 Thes. 1:4 (Paul would glory in other believers); 2 Co. 11:30 (Paul would glory in his own weaknesses); Gal. 6:14 (the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ)
    - a) The phrase the “Lord Jesus Christ” is used 82 times in the New Testament.
      - (1) Lord -- one who is Master.
      - (2) Jesus -- one who died
      - (3) Christ -- the one raised from the dead
    - b) Boasting in any other detracts from the cross of Christ. 1st Co. 1:17
  
- B. “For In Christ Jesus” -- a phrase that looks at the Resurrected One Who died for us. Vs. 15 Cf. Rom. 3:24 (where redemption found); 8:39 (where love from God found); Phil. 3:14 (where the upward calling of God is)
  - 1. “Avaieth”-- is the Greek word ischuo which is used in Scripture of “strength”.
  
- C. “The new creation”. Vs. 15

1. "But" (alla) but on the contrary to circumcision.
2. The word "new" is kainee notes that which is new in kind. Cf. Mk. 1:27 (of the Lord's doctrine); Acts 17:19 (of Paul's doctrine at Mars Hill)
3. "Creature" is better translated "creation". 2 Co. 5:17 (of the believer's position in Christ)

## CONCLUSION