

**“All Things New”
Galatians 6:14-18**

Introduction:

1. This Morning - We Will Be Finishing Our Series:
 - Through Paul’s Letter To The Galatian Churches:
 - Which We Started Back In January Of This Year!
 - So - Please Head Back With Me To The Last Chapter:
 - Chapter 6 - And To The Last 5 Verses:
 - Verses 14-18!
 - Where We Read:
 - “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. / For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. / And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. / From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. / Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen!”
2. Last Week - We Looked Closely At:
 - Verse 14 - Where Paul Shared With Us:
 - What He “Gloried” In!
 - What He “Boasted” And “Took Pride” In:
 - More Than Anything Else In This World!
 - It Was:
 - “The Cross Of Our Lord Jesus Christ!”
 - Can You Say This With Paul:
 - In Your Life Today?
 - John Calvin - “Where Man’s Highest Good Exists, There Is His Glory!”
 - A Person Can “Glory” & Take Pride In:
 - Just About Anything!
 - Looked At Some Of Those Last Week!
 - **IE:** Your Work / Your House / Your Yard / Your Family / Your Whatever!
 - But Only One Thing Is Truly Worthy:
 - Of Your Glory And Pride – If You Are A Christian!
 - It Is – The “Cross Of Our Lord Jesus Christ!”
 - It Is – The Gospel / Good News Of God’s Grace That Is Made Possible:
 - By Christ And His Cross!
 - 3. And In The Verses We Will Look At This Morning:
 - Paul Both Explains To Us & Illustrates For Us:
 - Why!
 - Why – Only The Gospel Of Grace Is Worthy Of Your Glory! (2x)

* The First Reason Is Because Of:

1. **The New Beginning!**
 - Made Possible Through The Gospel!
 - See This In 6:15 - “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature!”
 - In This Verse We Have A Contrast:
 - Between Something Old & Something New / Between Something On The Outside & Something On The Inside!
 - Between The Old Way:
 - The Way Of The Flesh!
 - And The “New And Living Way” (Hebrews 10:20):
 - The Way Of Faith!
 - And The Difference Between The Two:
 - Is Jesus Christ!
 - He Is The Only One Who Can “Make All Things New!” (Revelation 21:5)
 - **IE:** Now Everything Likes “New Things! Why “Black Friday” Is Such A Big Deal! New Things At Better Prices! Many Of Those “New” Things People Buy Are Really Just Upgrades! Latest & Greatest TV / Phone / Etc - But When Was The Last Time You Got Something Really “New!” As In - Something You Never, Ever Had Before! Know The Feeling! The Gospel Offers Not Just The Latest & Greatest Upgrade - But Something Completely & Entirely New! And It Stands In Stark

- Contrast To The Old Way:
 - The Way Of The Flesh:
 - Which - According To This Verse:
 - Availeth Or Means Nothing!
 - “For In Christ Jesus Neither Circumcision Availeth Any Thing, Nor Uncircumcision!”
 - The Jews Took Pride In:
 - This External Procedure - “Circumcision” As:
 - As Not Just The *Symbol* Of Their Relationship With God:
 - But As The *Condition* Of Their Relationship With God As Well!
 - But Through The Gospel We Learn That:
 - One’s Relationship With God *In No Way*:
 - Depends On The Condition Of Your Flesh!
 - But On The Condition Of Your Heart!
 - 2:16 - “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified!”
 - And So - The Way Of The Flesh:
 - Availeth Nothing! And Accomplishes Nothing!
 - But - The Completely New Way Is:
 - The Way Of Faith:
 - Which According To This Verse:
 - Availeth & Means Everything!
 - “But A New Creature / Creation!”
 - Paul Wants Us To Know That:
 - Becoming & Being This “New Creation” Is:
 - “The Only Thing That Really Matters!” (Hendrickson)
 - This Is The Only Way For You:
 - To Have A Relationship With God!
 - This Is The Only Way For You:
 - To Be Saved From Your Sin!
 - And It Has Nothing To Do With:
 - Your Flesh – Your Works!
 - It Has Everything To Do With:
 - Your Faith In The Finished Work Of Jesus Christ On The Cross!
 - We Know This Because Of What Paul Wrote In:
 - 5:6 - “For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love!”
 - Similar Wording!
 - So Near The End Of This Letter:
 - The Great Concern Is This:
 - Are You A New Creature In Jesus Christ?
 - Not By Your Flesh!
 - But Through Faith In What Jesus Christ Did On The Cross For You?
 - This Is The Only Thing That Really Matters!
 - Really Counts!
 - Matthew 16:26 - “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”
 - Have You Experienced This:
 - New Beginning In Your Life?
 - This “New Birth” That Makes You Into A “New Creature!”
 - Without The Cross:
 - Everything Will Stay The Same!
 - Only The Cross Can Change And Transform Your Heart & Your Life!
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17 - “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new!”
 - And This Is Why:
 - Only The Gospel Of Grace Is Worthy Of Your Glory!
 - Because Of The New Beginning It Offers To You:
 - And To Everyone Who Believes!

* The Second Reason Is Because Of:

2. ***The New Blessing!***

- Made Possible Through The Gospel!
 - See This In 6:16 - "And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God!"
 - In This Verse Paul Pronounces God's Blessing:
 - On Everyone Who Has Become A "New Creation" Through Faith In The Gospel!
- See: The Condition Of This Blessing:
 - "And As Many As Walk According To This Rule!"
 - "Rule" Here – Or "Canon" – Means A Principle Or A Standard!
 - What "Rule" Are We To Walk By?
 - The Principle Stated In The Previous Verse:
 - 6:15 - That "The Only Thing That Really Matters":
 - Is Being & Living As:
 - The "New Creation" Of God Through Faith In Christ!
 - 2:20 - "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me!"
 - And If You Are Living As God's "New Creature":
- See: The Content Of This Blessing:
 - "Peace Be On Them, And Mercy!"
 - These Blessings Are Often Used:
 - In The New Testament!
 - And Even Though Every True Christian:
 - And Every "New Creature" Has Already:
 - Received The Blessings Of:
 - Peace With God!
 - And Mercy From God!
 - There Is Still The Need In Every One Of Our Lives:
 - For A Fresh Understanding Of These Blessings!
 - As Well As A Fresh Application Of These Blessings!
 - We Still Need God's Peace!
 - Because We Still Experience Great Struggles:
 - In This Sin-Cursed World!
 - Peace In Our Hearts!
 - Peace In Our Relationships!
 - And So God Still Offers His Peace:
 - To Us In Our Struggles!
 - John 14:27 - "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid!"
 - What A Blessing! And:
 - We Still Need God's Mercy!
 - Because We Still Experience The Effects:
 - Of Sin In Our Lives!
 - Our Own Sin!
 - The Sin Of Others!
 - Directly / Indirectly!
 - And So God Continues To Offer His Mercy:
 - To Us In Our Weakness!
 - Joel 2:13 - "And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness!"
 - What A Blessing! Also:
 - See: The Change Of This Blessing:
 - At The End Of 6:16 - Paul Adds:
 - "And Upon The Israel Of God!"
 - Now - Just Who Is Paul Talking About Here?
 - Is He Pronouncing God's Blessing On:
 - Israel In A National & Natural Sense?
 - As Those Who Are Physically Related To Abraham, Isaac & Jacob?
 - In This Case - I Don't Believe So!
 - Because - All Through This Letter:

- Paul's Focus Has Been On The:
 - Internal Not The External!
 - On Your Faith & Not On Your Flesh!
- Paul Is Here Reassuring You – That If You:
 - Believe On The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - Then **You** Are The True “Israel Of God!”
- Remember 3:28-29 - “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. / And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise!”
 - There Were Some Who Were Convincing Them That They Needed To Become Like A Jew:
 - In Order To Be Saved!
 - But We Know That:
 - “They are not all Israel, which are of Israel!” (Romans 9:6)
- If You Are Trusting In Jesus Christ Alone:
 - As Your Savior – Then You Are:
 - “The Israel Of God!”
 - You Are One Of His Princes Or Princesses, Because You Are His Child!
 - Which Is What “Israel” Means!
 - “Prince Of God!”
- And All Of His Blessings:
 - Are Bestowed Upon You!
 - His Peace!
 - His Mercy!
 - And So Many Others!
- And This Is Why:
 - Only The Gospel Of Grace Is Worthy Of Your Glory!
 - Because Of The New Blessings It Offers To You:
 - And To Everyone Who Believes!

* The Third Reason Is Because Of:

3. ***The New Belonging!***

- Made Possible Through The Gospel!
 - See This In 6:17 - “From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus!”
 - Here - Paul Himself Illustrates Another Reason:
 - Why We Should Glory In The Cross Of Christ!
 - Because It Unites You To Your Savior!
 - Both Now & Forever!
- See: The Purpose Of Your Belonging:
 - Paul States - “From Henceforth Let No Man Trouble Me!”
 - Now - This Is What Was Going On In Galatia At That Time!
 - They Were Troubling Him:
 - Even In His Absence!
 - But Now - Paul Admonishes Them To:
 - Stop Resisting The Truth Of The Gospel:
 - That He Preached To Them At First!
 - That He Wrote To Them Now!
 - But - Because Paul Knew:
 - Who He Now Belonged To:
 - He Could Say In 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 - “We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; / Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed!”
 - When You Belong To Christ:
 - Peace With Others Should Be Your Goal:
 - As Long As It Is Based On Truth!
 - But Peace With God Is Your Guarantee!
 - You Can Be “Troubled – Yet Not Distressed!”
 - See: The Proofs Of Your Belonging:
 - “For I Bear In My Body The Marks Of The Lord Jesus!”
 - Literally - The Scars - From His:

- Beatings / Scourgings / Stoning!
- Yet - Paul Considered Them To Be:
 - Identification Marks:
 - That He Belonged To The Lord Jesus!
- “Stigma” - Often Used For A Tattoo Or Branding:
 - Of A Soldier In The Army:
 - Or A Slave In The Field!
 - Shows Who You Belonged To!
- But These Marks:
 - “Partake Of The Nature Of The Cross!” (Calvin)
 - And Became A Badge Of Honor To Paul & Even The Other Apostles!
 - Acts 5:41 - Who “Rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name!”
- **IE:** Purple Heart Is Given To Those Who Are Wounded In Combat - The Image Of George Washington - Great Honor!
 - But There Is Greater Honor When Your Own Identification Marks As A Christian Take Upon The Likeness Of Christ And His Cross!
- When You Suffer For Christ And His Gospel:
 - Jesus Himself Says - Matthew 5:11-12 - “Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. / Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you!”
- And This Is Why:
 - Only The Gospel Of Grace Is Worthy Of Your Glory!
 - Because Of The New Belonging It Offers To You!
 - You Now Belong To Christ!

Conclusion:

1. Only The Gospel Of Grace Is Worthy Of Your Glory!
 - Because Of All God Offers Through Christ & His Cross:
 - A New Beginning!
 - A New Blessing!
 - A New Belonging!
 - If You Turn To & Trust In The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - You Can Now Claim These As Your Own!
 - And Then:
2. Paul Closes His Letter:
 - With A Final Benediction – A Final Prayer:
 - 6:18 - “Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen!”
 - Paul Knows That Even With:
 - All These New Things:
 - We Will Never Get Over The Need For:
 - God’s Sustaining Grace!
 - We Need His Grace:
 - As Individual Christians & As A Church:
 - To Live For Christ & To Glorify Christ!
 - And So - God Continues To Offer:
 - His “Grace To Help In Time Of Need!” (Hebrews 4:16)
3. And So - As We Finish Our Series On This Letter:
 - Remember This:
 - Only The Gospel Of Grace Is Worthy Of Your Glory!

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