

“The Offense of the Cross”
Galatians 5:7-12

We are at all times to live in accord with the gospel and to glory in its clear proclamation!

1. Living in accord with the Gospel of the Cross **vv. 7-10**

(1) Vigilance is necessary at all times! *“You were running well.
Who hindered you from obeying the truth?
This persuasion is not from him who calls you.”*

- **One can start well, but must continue!**

- **The enemy of our souls ever seeks to sow error and falsehood.**

(2) The gospel is to be obeyed! *“Who hindered you from obeying the truth (of the gospel)?”*

- **“Who hindered you?”** *“cut in on you”*

- **How is the gospel to be “obeyed?”**

- By obeying God’s command to believe in Christ’s work alone as sufficient to save.
- By confessing that it is by faith alone that one is justified.
- By living in accord with the gospel: *living* by faith in Christ alone.
- By giving no place to those who preach a different gospel.

(3) The gospel is to be guarded!

-1- No addition of works is to be tolerated! *“A little leaven leavens the whole lump.”*

- A proverb and its meaning:
A small part introduced that then permeates and dramatically affects the whole.

- Applied: This (teaching) alters the whole understanding of salvation and of the Christian life.

-2- Adherence to Apostolic doctrine is vital! *“I have confidence in the Lord
that you will take no other view than mine,
and the one who is troubling you
will bear the penalty, whoever he is.”*

- **Close adherence is a feature of true faith.**

- cf. 1 Jn. 4:6

- **Rejection of Apostolic doctrine calls for discipline.**

- Such rejection is revelatory of the state of the heart! cf. 1 Jn. 2:19

2. Preaching the Gospel of the Cross

vv. 11-12

(1) Brings persecution!

*“But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision,
why am I still being persecuted?
In that case the offense of the cross
has been removed.”*

- **Apparently a slander circulated conc. Paul**

That he preached and taught favorably of circumcision.
But if that were the case he wouldn’t be facing constant persecution (by the Jews)!

- **“Offense”** - “stumbling block” Gk: SCANDALON

- **The offense of the cross:**

The cross rejects all human merit and glory
and teaches that salvation comes only from the crucified Savior. cf. 1 Cor. 1:23

(2) Requires ‘calling out’ the enemies of the cross! *“I wish those who unsettle you
would emasculate themselves!”*

- **A malediction!**

- Sacral castration was practiced in some pagan religions and cults!

- i.e., “Since these false teachers mutilate the gospel, let them mutilate themselves!”

Further Application