

May 20, 2012

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

Galatians 6:11-13

“Wrong Message – Wrong Motives”

- I. The Gospel of Grace Alone Through Faith Alone in the Finished Work of Christ Alone **Defended** (1:1-2:21)
 - II. The Gospel of Grace Alone Through Faith Alone in the Finished Work of Christ Alone **Explained** (3:1-4:31)
 - III. The Gospel of Grace Alone Through Faith Alone in the Finished Work of Christ Alone **Applied** (5:1-6:18)
 - A. **Position** of Liberty: Stand Fast (5:1-12)
 - B. **Practice** of Liberty: Love One Another (5:13-15)
 - C. **Power** for Liberty: Walk in the Spirit (5:16-26)
 - D. **Performance in Liberty: Do Good to all Men (6:1-16)**
 - 1. **Bearing the Burden of Grace vs. Law (6:1-5)**
 - 2. **Sowing & Reaping the Good Seed of Grace (6:6-10)**
- 3. Message & Motive of Law vs. Message & Motive of Grace**
- a. **Motives of the Legalists (6:11-13)**

Discussion Questions:

1. Paul pointed out that he wrote in **large letters** with his own hand (Gal. 6:11). How is this different from 1 Cor. 16:21; Col. 4:18; 2 Thess. 3:17; Philemon 19? What reason might he have for writing in large letters? How would this match the content of the epistle?
2. Paul points out the **motives** (desires) of the Legalists (Judaizers) in v. 12-13. What are the motives that he mentions? How would Paul know what their motives were? Compare this to what Jesus said about the religious leaders of Israel (Mt. 23). What similarities do you find?
3. How does the **message** of Legalism logically lead to these kinds of **motives**? How have you seen wrong thinking impact your motives? Be specific.
4. What are some ways that we can get caught up in desiring “to make a good showing in the flesh?” How can we overcome this tendency to desire the approval of man?
5. In what way would following legalistic rules & ceremonies enable someone to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ? Why does the cross get unbelieving people so upset? Why would people want to do something painful to their bodies as opposed to simply accepting God’s free gift of salvation through the cross of Jesus Christ? (See 1 Cor. 1:18-31)
6. The Judaizers were more concerned with comfort (safety) than they were with correct doctrine and conformity to Christ. Do you see anything similar in churches / Christians today? What are some specific areas where you are tempted (or prone) to compromise biblical truth in order to avoid persecution?
7. What is hypocrisy? How is it expressed in Gal. 6:13? Obviously they have been circumcised so what part of the Law are they failing to keep? According to Rom. 3:19-20 what should the Law have revealed to people who are trying to earn favor from God by keeping it? Why would people pretend to keep the Law and encourage everyone else to keep it when they know they can’t keep it themselves? How would a proper understanding of God’s grace (the right message) enable us to be honest about areas of weakness and failure in our lives?
8. In Gal. 6:13 what does it mean to “boast in your flesh”? How would convincing people to be circumcised enable the Judaizers (Legalists) to boast about them? What are some “religious” things people do that they boast about?
9. Arrogance, bullying, cowardice, and hypocrisy are the evident motives, attitudes, and behaviors of the Legalists. What other motives, attitudes and behaviors have you seen when people are religious or legalistic? How does a proper understanding of the Gospel of Grace impact and overcome each of these?
10. What should be the one thing that motivates you more than anything else? What message encourages that?