

Faith: Trusting, Walking, Living*A Study in Ruth & Galatians***Galatians 6:11–18****Read Galatians 6:11–18.**

1. Perhaps Paul takes over at this point from the scribe to finish the letter “with my own hand” (v.11). What hint do we have for why he writes with “large letters”? (4:14–15)
2. In his final remarks, Paul will contrast the two different mindsets he has described in this painful letter. What are the motives of those pushing circumcision?

v. 12a

v. 12b

v. 13b
3. Galatia was a city where Judaism was considered respectable but the Christian message of the cross was offensive. How does that shed light on Paul's comment that the Judaizers are avoiding persecution?
4. How does the detail disclosed in verse 13a further demonstrate the emptiness of this religion of circumcision and rule-keeping?
5. In contrast to the concern for human praise and for safety from persecution, what does Paul boast and delight in? (v. 14)
6. Circumcision, and preoccupation with religious externals, go only skin deep, but what constitutes true transformation? (v. 15; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 2:29, 7:6)
7. If the legalists and Judaizers want “rules,” what is the only “rule” (v. 16) Paul goes by? (vv. 14–15)
8. Though the false teachers promoting circumcision consider themselves more “Jewish,” who in fact are the true “Israel of God” (v. 16)? (Phil. 3:3)

9. Throughout Galatians Paul has talked about the wonderful new life available to you by faith in Jesus. What is true for you in this new life? Personalize your answers, as in the following example.
- 1:4 *Christ gave himself for my sins to rescue me from the present evil age.*
- 2:16
- 2:19
- 2:20
- 3:5
- 3:14
- 3:26; 4:6
- 4:7
- 5:22–23
- 6:16
10. Paul's answer to those who want to contend for circumcision of the skin is that he bears a different kind of "mark" on his body (v. 17). What is his possible meaning here? (2 Cor. 11:23–27)
11. This has been a hard letter for Paul to write, and full of concern for the Galatians' spiritual welfare (1:6; 4:20), but he doesn't end in despair. What does his closing benediction tell you? (v. 18)
12. Let us close this study of Galatians by thanking God that through Christ's blood, we are precious daughters of God and new creations in Christ. This new status is not something we have earned but is a gracious gift we have received by faith. Share how the study of Galatians has changed you this year.