

LET ME SUMMARIZE...
Galatians 6:6-18

As Paul brings his letter to a conclusion, he ties together many of his thoughts by emphasizing the importance of the way we live out our lives. He then reminds his readers of the battle they are in for their spiritual freedom, and the real motives of the Judaizers.

"So we have Christ through His apostles to teach us, Christ through His cross to save us and Christ through His Spirit to sanctify us. This in a nutshell is the message of the Epistle to the Galatians and indeed of Christianity itself." (John Stott)

⁶ Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor.

⁷ Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

⁸ The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

¹¹ See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand!

¹² Those who want to make a good impression outwardly are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ.

¹³ Not even those who are circumcised obey the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your flesh.

¹⁴ May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

¹⁵ Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation.

¹⁶ Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God.

¹⁷ Finally, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

¹⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

How do the following verses shed light on **verse 6**? (See 1 Cor. 9:9, 1 Tim. 5:17,18)

How does a legalist "mock" God?

How does a "licentious" person mock God?

Sowing and reaping seems to be a cause-and-effect principle. How would you answer the person who says: *"See? Christianity just says that if you do good, you go to heaven; if you do bad, you go to hell."*?

See **verse 10**. *"Especially ... to the family of believers"* Doesn't this sound a bit cliquish? Doesn't Jesus contradict this idea in Matthew 5:46?

Eugene Peterson writes: *"Paul doesn't direct our attention to those who are close to home because they are more deserving but because they are there, and he knows that the biggest deterrent to the drudgery of caring for an everyday friend is the dreaming of helping an exotic stranger. It is easier to write out a check for a starving child halfway around the world than to share the burden of our next-door neighbor who talks too much."*

Compare and contrast the two *"boastings"* of verses 13 and 14.

What does Paul mean by *"a new creation"*? (See especially **2 Corinthians 5:17**)

What do you think Paul means by the *"Israel of God"*?

How were the *"marks"* on Paul's body an ironic contrast to the *"marks"* of circumcision which the Judaizers emphasized so much?

Martin Luther, a great champion of freedom, in 1520 began his "Treatise on Christian Liberty" with two propositions: *"A Christian man is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian man is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all."*

What do you think of Luther's "contradictory" principles?

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER...

Summarize what you think have been the 3-5 most important, central principles of the book of Galatians:

1

2

3

4

5

If you had to choose your "favorite" three verses from Galatians, what would they be?

1

2

3

What about the book of Galatians has personally meant the most to you?

Think for a moment about ministry to others. According to their need at the time, when would you recommend Galatians to a friend? In other words, what problems or struggles do you think the truths of Galatians would help someone through?