

Galatians 6: 11-13

Motives of Legalism

19 April, 2026

Sunday 9 A.M.
Study in Galatians





11. SEE WITH WHAT LARGE LETTERS I AM WRITING TO YOU WITH MY OWN HAND.

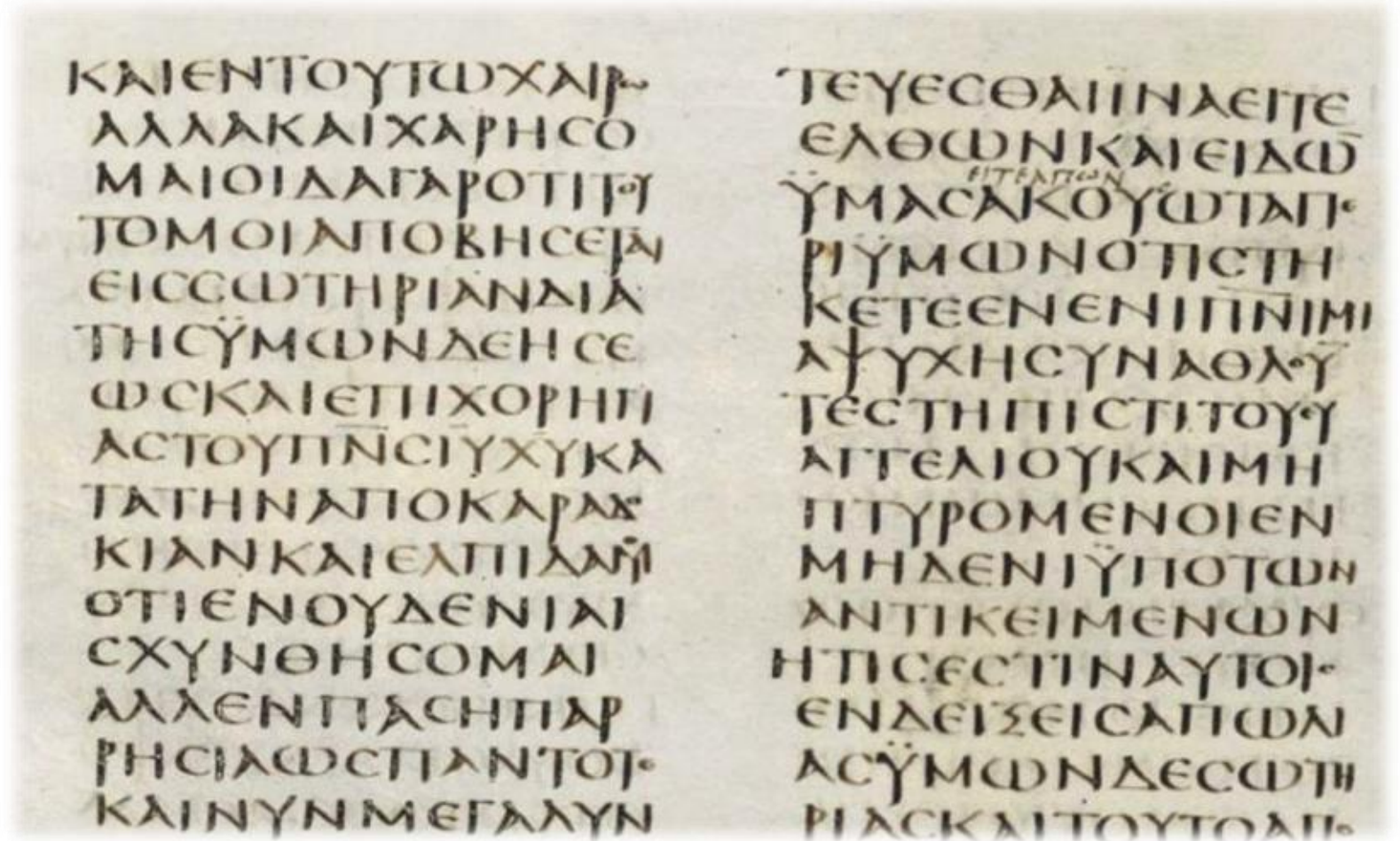
12. THOSE WHO DESIRE TO MAKE A GOOD SHOWING IN THE FLESH TRY TO COMPEL YOU TO BE CIRCUMCISED, SIMPLY SO THAT THEY WILL NOT BE PERSECUTED FOR THE CROSS OF CHRIST. 13. FOR THOSE WHO ARE CIRCUMCISED DO NOT EVEN KEEP THE LAW THEMSELVES, BUT THEY DESIRE TO HAVE YOU CIRCUMCISED SO THAT THEY MAY BOAST IN YOUR FLESH.

11. See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand.

Example of *uncial*
Greek lettering: 1.0”
High letters; all Caps

As opposed to the Norm:

- Cursive writing
- *Flowy*
- Smaller . . .



11. SEE WITH WHAT LARGE LETTERS I AM WRITING TO YOU WITH MY OWN HAND.



- I. **See: horaó** - see with your mind; perceive . . . Merryman: do not miss the fact that I'm writing largely and in all caps

- II. **'I am writing to you'** is an aorist tense active voice: Merryman claims: *'everything I have written up to this point- the whole letter'*
 - a) this differs from what we usually assume, which is—
 - b) Written by an 'amanuensis' (scribe for hire); then Paul takes over to greet personally at the end such as:
 - c) *'in my own hand'* or *'with my own hand'* I, Paul – [*I Corinthians, Colossians, II Thessalonians & Philemon*]
 - d) I had originally began this study with the guesstimation that Paul wrote only this WARNING (vs. 11, 12, 13) in his own hand

FROM: 'GALATIANS: GOD'S ANTIDOTE TO LEGALISM; RONALD C. MERRYMAN

11. SEE WITH WHAT LARGE LETTERS I AM WRITING TO YOU WITH MY OWN HAND.

III. *But I am convinced with Merryman's argument:*

- a) He penned the entire thing
- b) **WHAT** are the possible scenarios as to why he says this?

Option I: Paul's suspected eye problems and needed large letters to see them without an amanuensis

Option II: Paul DID have an amanuensis and took over the pen at its valediction to sign-off personally as in: (I Cor, II Thes, Col. & Philemon) as **AUTHENTICATICATION**

Option III: as **EMPHASIS** of his main point which he restates here in the conclusion

- The letter is urgent, Paul finding out the Galatians have turned to legalism, he didn't have the time to set a scribe relationship to get it off to them, etc. could have been reasons for writing the whole letter
- All could have been true, but the *urgency* seems to be best and primary reason for Paul's handwritten Galatian letter, and the 'large letters' comment: to emphasize his summation; his closing argument





12. Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh try to compel you to be circumcised, simply so that they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.

I. ***Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh:***

- a) The legalists are trying to impress some people!
- b) The greek is: to make a fair countenance, fair appearance; *'put on a good face'*
 - It is in the flesh only. ... are they concerned about their spiritual well-being? Their grounding? Their continued maturation in Christ?
 - No, they perhaps want to show the Galatians off as their doing in roping them into the legalistic, Mosaic system as an add-on to justification by faith alone
 - Are they: sowing to their own flesh here?
 - What is it that they're sowing?
 - **SEEDS** of: time, energy in reversing Paul's gospel, seeding with Mosaic doctrines?.... Other things?

12. Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh try to compel you to be circumcised, simply so that they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.



II. **Compelling to be circumcised:**

- a) compel: to force by external *violence (Zodhiates)*; also force by moral authority
- b) Circumcision: the moral badge of membership into the religious mandates of the Jews; the *bona fides* of their commitment—
 - A religious branding as a means of show?
 - Circumcision: the entry-fee / initiation into the whole Mosaic regimen . . Fair to say?
 - Start with circumcision added to justification & sanctification by the cross alone: then why not add new moons, festivals, feasts, the 10 commandments
- c) IT IS EVIDENT: circumcision was a showing on / in the flesh of a man committed
- d) Interesting how: flesh has implied here a physical sense as well as meaning the nature of a man



12. Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh try to compel you to be circumcised, simply so that they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.

III. . . . **Simply (NAS) so that they not be persecuted:**

- a) 'in order that they' not be persecuted (ESV)
- b) 'to avoid persecution'
 - They know what Paul went through, he states as much in upcoming v. 17 'I bear the marks of the Lord Jesus' bodily
 - It's a purpose clause for them not to go through what they themselves were dishing out to him

IV. . . . **For the cross of Christ**

- a) a reproach, a stigma; especially: **Psa. 22: 14-18**
- b) foolishness to those perishing [1 Cor 1:18]- foolishness to the Gentiles and a stumbling block to Jews [1 Cor. 1:23]
- c) Why is this?



Psalm 22: 14-18:

I am poured out like water,
And all my bones are out of joint;
My heart is like wax;
It is melted within me.

My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
And my tongue cleaves to my jaws;
And You lay me in the dust of death.

For dogs have surrounded me;
A band of evildoers has encompassed me;
They pierced my hands and my feet.

I can count all my bones.

They look, they stare at me;
They divide my garments among them,
And for my clothing they cast lots.

13. For those who are circumcised do not even keep the Law themselves, but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh.



I. ***For those who are circumcised do not even keep the Law themselves***

- a) How much of the Law do they need to keep? [Gal 5:3]
- b) What is the noun describing these Judiazers?
 - ***Hypokritēs***— meaning “an actor” or “one who answers/ interprets from under a mask.”
 - Very interesting how this word ties into v. 12’s they ‘desire to put on a good face in the flesh’; or: they desire to put on a smiling face!
 - Can you think of biblical examples of *hypokritēs* ? Below: from Mat. 23:1-7

*Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples, saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things and do not do them. **They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men’s shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger. But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men;** for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments. They love the place of honor at banquets and the chief seats in the synagogues, and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called Rabbi by men.*

**** In the eight: ‘Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees’ that follow in 23: 13-36, the Lord adds ‘hypocrites’ to SEVEN the Woes***





Summary:

- i. These last verses are not a warm valediction, but a legal summation; an attorney's closing statement
- ii. The main point of Galatians is to eschew legalism for the grace provided at the Cross
- iii. Mosaic egalism's key card is the circumcision they are to receive soon
- iv. Verses 14 and 15's personal plea is his closing statement's personal plea is his *coup de grâce* to the whole argument
- v. We will note the tie-in to Gal. 2:20 to these final thoughts



12. *simply so that they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.*

And yet for such grace He was commonly stigmatized!

Blessed stigma Oh! how He gloried in an offence of this kind!

His love for the poor, sinful souls of men—that sublimest of all charities—should have secured something else than His rejection.

For this reason too He might have said,

“Blessed is he whosoever shall not be offended in Me.”

FROM: J WILSON SMITH : THE OFFENCE OF THE CROSS: STEM PUBLISHING.COM