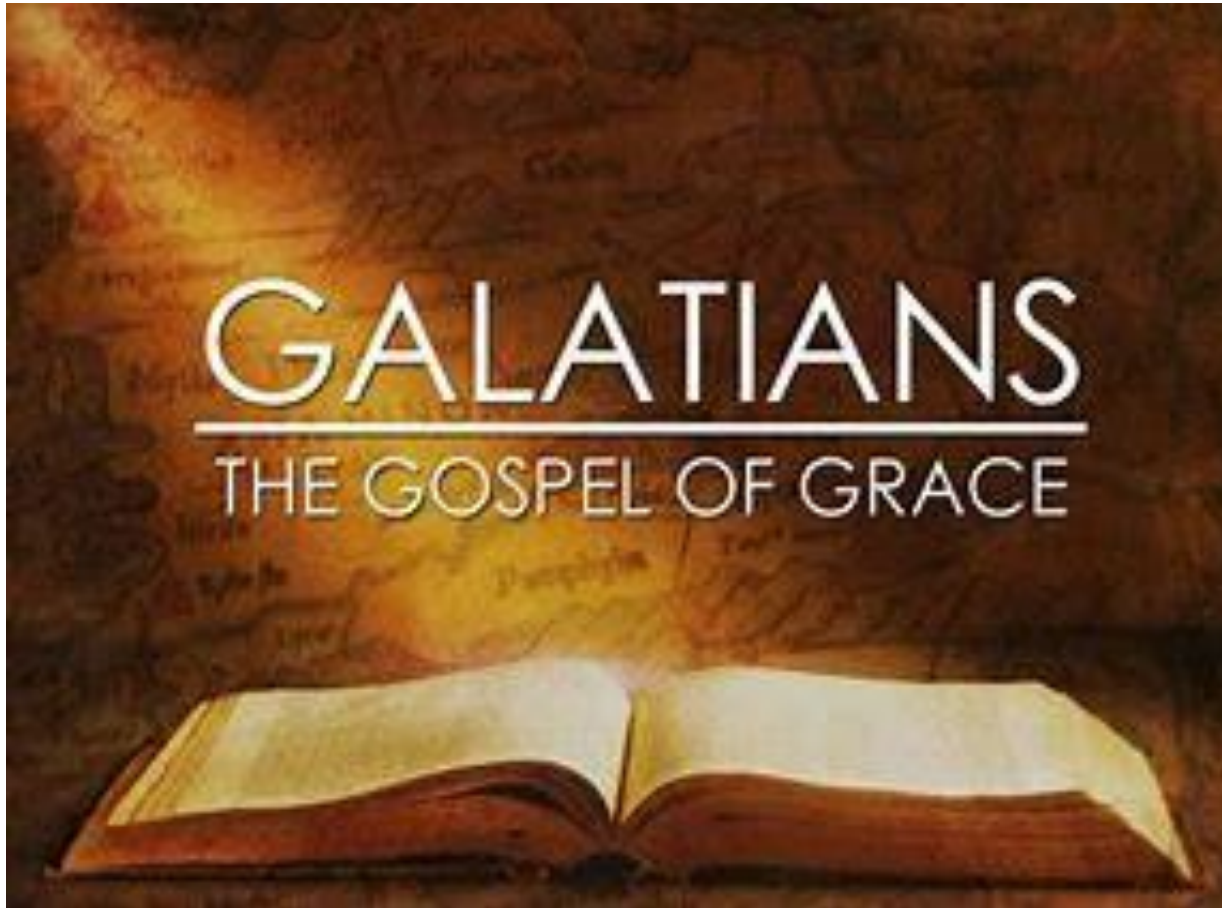


Gal 6:11-13 Motives of Legalism and of Paul





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.



See I am writing to you

(you) **see** - *oida* - not the mere act of seeing but the
actual perception of some object, ex: Mark 5:14

note: this is a command

I am writing to you

I wrote to you (interlinear) – past point fact

Paul is saying that he actual did the writing!

Paul normally had a secretary write the letter for him

example: Rom 16:22 - I, Tertius, who write this letter, greet
you in the Lord.

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



Paul makes two qualifying statements about what he wrote!

A. - with what large letters

large – In Gal. 6:11, meaning either large characters (implying a stiff and unpracticed hand which made the Gr. letters large like the Hebr.) or a large document. Zohiates

letters - a character, letter of the alphabet referring to the size of the characters written by his own hand

He does this by writing in literary uncials (1" high letters).

McCalley

Uncial Greek



Α Β Γ Δ Ε Ζ Η Θ Ι Κ Λ Μ Ν
Ξ Ο Π Ρ Σ Τ Υ Φ Χ Ψ Ω
ΰ γ γ̃ ι̃ κ̃ · : λ̃ θ̃
Δ

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



B. - with my own hand

Colossians 4:18

¹⁸ I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand.
Remember my imprisonment. Grace be with you.

1 Corinthians 16:21

²¹ The greeting is in my own hand—Paul.

2 Thessalonians 3:17

¹⁷ I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand, and this is a distinguishing mark in every letter; this is the way I write.

ΑΔΣΑΦΗΚΑΝΚΑΙ ΠΡΑΧΜΕΦΗ
ΑΝΘΡΩΠΩΝ ΣΕΝΤΙΝΗ ΠΑΡΑΤΙ ΔΗΜΑΙ
ΥΜΩΣ ΚΙΝΗΣΥΜΑΤΙΚΑ ΚΑΤΑΡΤΙ
ΣΕΤΕ ΤΗΝ ΤΗΟΥΤΗΝ ΚΙΝΗΣΥΜΑΤΙ
ΠΡΑΥΤΗΤΟΣ ΕΣΘΩ ΔΙΝ ΕΣΑΥΤΗΝ Μ
ΚΑΙ ΕΥΠΡΑΨΑ ΣΩΗΙΣ ΔΑΙΔΟΜΝΤΑ
ΚΑΚΗ ΒΑΡΤΙΣΤΕ ΚΑΙ ΑΥΤ ΜΕ ΧΝΕ
ΠΑΡΩΣ ΕΤΑ ΤΗΝ ΜΗΜΗΝΗ ΧΡΗΤ
ΟΥΣΙ ΓΑΡ ΔΕΚΕΙΤΙΣ ΕΙΝΑΙ ΤΙ ΜΗ ΔΕΗ
ΜΗ ΔΕ ΝΑΤΑΤΑΙ ΕΣΑΥΤΗΝ ΤΑ ΕΣΤΩ
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ΚΙΝΗΣΕΤΕ ΔΕ ΚΟΚΑΤΗ ΧΟΥ ΜΕΝΑ ΣΤΗ
ΜΗΝ ΤΩ ΚΑΤΗ ΧΟΥ ΤΗ ΕΝ ΠΑΖΙΝΑ ΔΑ
ΘΗΙΣ ΜΗ ΠΑΝΑ ΣΘΕ ΘΕ ΕΣΥ ΜΕ ΚΗΡ
ΣΕΤΑΙ ΕΓΑΡ ΕΑΝ ΣΤΕΙΡΗ ΜΙΑ ΔΩΡΩ
ΠΟΣ ΤΗ ΤΟ ΚΑΙ ΘΕΡΙΣ ΕΙ ΕΘΟΡΑ ΜΕ ΔΕ
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ΕΚ ΤΟΥ ΠΝΕΥΜΑΤΟΣ ΘΕΡΙΣ ΕΙΣ ΤΗΝ
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ΣΟΜΕΝ ΚΗ ΕΛΛΥΟΜΕΝ ΟΙ ΑΡΑ ΕΥΝΟΣ

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ΕΝ ΤΗ ΣΑΝΤΑΖ ΜΑΖΟΥΤΑ ΔΕ ΟΥΣ
ΤΟΥΣ ΕΙΣ ΤΗΝ ΕΣΤΩ ΕΙΣ
ΙΔΕΤΕ ΤΗΝ ΑΙΧΑΙ ΣΥΜΙΝ
ΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΣΙΝ ΕΓΥΔΑΤΗ
ΕΜ ΤΗ ΧΕΙΡΙ ΟΙ ΟΙ ΘΕΛΟ
ΥΣΙΝ ΕΣΤΩ ΟΣΩ ΠΗΙ ΣΩ
ΕΝ ΣΑΡΧΙ ΟΥΤΟΙ ΔΗ ΔΑ ΓΧΑ
ΖΟΥΣΙΝ ΥΜΑΣ ΠΕΥΡΤΕ Μ
ΝΕ ΣΩΜΟΝΟΝ ΙΝ ΔΤΩ
ΣΑΥΡΩ ΤΟΥ ΧΥΙΣΤΟΥ ΜΗ
ΔΙΩΧΩΝΤΑΙ ΟΥ ΔΕ ΒΡΟΤΕ
ΡΗΤΕ ΜΝΟΥΚΕ ΝΟΙ ΔΕ ΤΗ Μ
ΜΗ ΦΥΛΑΞΟΥΣΙΝ ΑΛΛΑ ΘΕ
ΛΟΥΣΙΝ ΚΗ ΕΣΤΕ ΠΕΥΡΤΕ Μ
ΣΩΜΟΝ ΔΕΝ ΤΗ ΥΜΕΤΕΡΩ
ΣΑΡΧΙ ΧΑΙΤΗ ΣΩΝΤ ΔΙ

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



What was Paul intent in writing these last verses in Galatians?

- First, he does so to authenticate his letter.
- Second, he does so to emphasize his main points. The large letters show his strong convictions about what he has written. McCalley
- Most of this epistle is spent in condemning and correcting the false teachings of the Judaizers.
- Now in these remaining verses he condemns their motives. Molloy

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.



subject: those who or as many as

Who is being addressed?

In view is anyone who is improperly motivated and promoting circumcision rites.

Merryman

verb: desire - *thelō* - to will, to wish, implying volition and purpose, frequently a determination

can be in a good sense or a bad sense

John 8:44a "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father.

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.



1st: to make a good showing

- to put on a good face
- to appear well
- to display religious zeal

in the flesh – this focus on the outward not the inward

Here Paul is speaking about the Judaizers who deceived the Galatian believers in how to live the Christian life.*

- by works (i.e. circumcision) as opposed to faith
- under Law as opposed to under grace



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.

2nd: (those) **try to compel you to be circumcised**

compel - *anankazō* - to put constraint upon, whether by threat, entreaty, force or persuasion

Acts 15:1 Some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."

Their (Judaizers) interest is in the area of the seen, the outward, the flesh; therefore circumcision , a mark in the flesh is very important to them.

Merryman



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.

simply so that or only that (the other part of their motive)

^{3rd} - they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ

persecuted - *diōkō* - to persecute, pursue with repeated acts of enmity

- 2 Tim 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
- 1 Cor 1:23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,
 - The Judaizers want no part of persecution.
 - The Judaizers wish to remain in good standing with the Jewish community.

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.



3rd - persecuted for the cross of Christ (more thoughts!)

- To admit that circumcision was non-essential was to invite the wrath of Jewish religionists.* (see Acts 13:45)
- The cross of Christ is where sin was dealt with.
- The cross of Christ is central to the gospel Paul was preaching.
- The cross of Christ is God's emphatic pronouncement to the world that all men are sinners including men who tried to keep God's law.*

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.



4th - For those who are circumcised do not even keep the Law themselves.

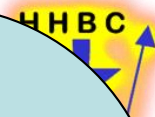
subject: those who are circumcised

verb: do not even keep (present tense, continuous action)

modifier: the Law themselves

Rom 2:25 For indeed circumcision is of value if you practice the Law; but if you are a transgressor of the Law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.

Circumcision and keeping the Law go hand in hand!



Reason why the Judaizers or any man cannot keep the Law

Romans 8:3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,

Acts 7:51-53 "You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.

⁵² "Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become;

⁵³ you who received the law as ordained by angels, and yet did not keep it."

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.



5th - but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh.

subject: they (those who are circumcised)

verb: desire - thelō - to will, to wish, implying volition and purpose, frequently a determination

- to have you circumcised so that

what follows is the purpose of the circumcision

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.



- they (Judaizers) may boast in your flesh.

that in your flesh they may glory (Wuest)

Since legalism in all its forms is a fleshly religion, one can expect fleshly manifestations. Here the boast was in a mark in the flesh ---

McCalley

In their act of forcing, if possible, circumcision upon the Gentiles, they would cover themselves with glory in the eyes of their Jewish brethren, and demonstrate to them how zealous they were of the law after all.

Wuest

But today Legalism still abounds!*



Many Christian denominations still teach the following rules to live the Christian life:

- You must pray more,
- You must study more
- You must give more
- You must witness more
- You must surrender more

If you do all these things then:

- You will be more acceptable to God
- You will be more pleasing to God
- You will be more righteous before God
- You will be more blessed by God

What should be the believers focus under grace*



- To walk by faith with Christ as our object
- To abide in Him (abide is to be at home with Him)
- To behold Him (through the word)
 - His glory, His grace, His truth, His love, His mercy, His compassion, His faithfulness, ---
- This (all of the above) is what is pleasing to God
- By this He will conform us to the image of Christ
- In this process He will give us the desire
 - To pray more
 - To study more
 - To witness more
 - To minister more

