

Woodland Baptist Church

Morning Worship – December 9, 2012

Galatians 6:11-18 Bearing the Genuine Marks of Christ

1) READ GALATIANS 6:11-18

- a. **9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. 10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.**
- b. **11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. 12 It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. 13 For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. 14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. 16 And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. 17 From now on 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.**

2) Verses - We sow first to our FAMILY then all OTHERS

- a. **9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.**
 - i. **Let us not grow weary of doing good** - sounds like Paul was speaking from experience there for sure - it was not too long ago he said, "I fear I have labored over you in vain." So this had to somewhat be written to himself as he thought about the Galatians.
 - ii. Why should we not grow weary? **For in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.**
 1. **Due season? What is due season?** More agricultural metaphorical language meaning that we don't always see the harvest immediately...as the physical harvest of plants takes time with the farmer, the spiritual harvest takes time...especially if its real.
 - a. **If we do not give up...**we wouldn't stop midway through the farming year would we? No, we would keep pressing on because we know that if we stop, our harvest will be greatly diminished...we must press on...no matter how few laborers we have...we must press on....

- b. The first place we don't give up is in the *household of faith* - Paul had not given up on these Galatians! Even though they were threatening to abandon everything he had taught them! He hung in there with them and refuted error and tried to correct their misunderstandings. We don't need to give up on one another either. We have members of our household corporately and individually and we are tired of dealing with them. Tired of it - they don't listen anyway do they? I beat my head against a wall trying to teach them the right way...and what do they do?? They fall in the same hole they did last time and this time they fell deeper.
 - i. The Word tells us to not grow faint...to not grow weary from doing good - why? Because we are sowing in the Spirit and God is keeping count and one day it will pay a rich, rich reward beyond anything we can imagine.
 - a. **James 5:7** - Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.

3) Verses 11-18 **Paul's Final Admonitions**

- a. **11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. 12 It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. 13 For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. 14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. 16 And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. 17 From now on 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.**

4) **Verse 11** Paul wrote his letter with his OWN hand - An attention getter

- a. **11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand.**
 - i. Paul wrote in large letters - he was writing this letter in ALL CAPS with his own hand - trying to get straight through.
 1. Putting things in writing carries a little more weight and severity than verbal communication.
 2. Written record that can be used to prove what transpired.

- ii. Both of these scenarios have been suggested:
 1. Paul wrote the entire letter, which caused him to call attention to the length and severity of the letter, by using large uncial letters.
 2. Paul's amanuensis wrote the letter, then Paul took over at the very end and personally wrote the post script to prove his authorship.

5) **Verse 12-13** Works **RIGHTEOUSNESS** results in **HYPOCRISY**

- a. **12 It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. 13 For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.**
- b. Who are those that want to make a good showing? Religious Elites
 - i. **Matthew 23:1-7** - Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, 2 "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, 3 so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. 4 They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. 5 They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, 6 and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues 7 and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others.
 - c. *They force circumcision to avoid persecution...from who? Political Elites*
 - d. *They push circumcision although they themselves don't and can't keep the law, but they push it, so they can boast in it.*
 - i. This is situation is easily understood from a simple reading of the letter; Paul is taking one last shot at the Judaizers before the letter is finished; trying one final time to turn the new converts in Galatia from the temptation to be circumcized for salvation.

6) **Verse 14** As a new **CREATION** we boast in Christ **ALONE**

- a. **14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.**
 - i. *Far it from me to boast* - Paul will boast in nothing but Christ crucified, not the Law of God, not circumcision, nothing but Christ! Trusting in Christ alone is sufficient for salvation.
 - ii. When we are crucified, the world has been crucified to me and we are crucified to the world...in other words...the world has been put to death for us and we have been put to death toward the world.

1. **1 John** - 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.
 - a. The aging process certainly proves this passage experientially....
2. **2 Corinthians 4:16** - So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.
 - a. The aging process concerns the outer body - skin, organs, brain, limbs...but the inner self, the spiritual side is indwelt by the Holy Spirit and with each passing day comes closer to Christ...but one day, we must not forget that our bodies will also be changed, translated in the wink of eye, becoming like Him who died for us.
 - b. *Circumcision nor uncircumcision count for anything* - another way of saying that some surgical procedure, chant, baptism, or any other outward religious act has no bearing on initiating salvation that come through the convicting power of the Holy Spirit in combination with the preaching of the Word of God - through that process, we must be transformed into a new creation - we cannot “do” anything to produce this, but hear and believe! Any prayer that we do or “calling out” is the verbal evidence that an inner change is being preformed by God...and old creation is in the birth pangs of becoming a new creation - the transformation must be initiated and completed by God.
 - i. Isaiah 64:6 - All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away
 - ii. What is the difference in works righteous and good Christian deeds?
 1. Works righteousness relates to human actions that are performed in the mindset to try to earn a right standing with God, such as circumcision, repeating something after someone else, the act of joining the church or getting baptized.
 - a. The person will think in their mind - “I’m going to do so this activity and God will love me and accept me.”
 - b. Or, if asked why they are a Christian, they will cite what they have done for God and not what God has done for them. (This can be a strong, unbreakable delusion)
 2. Good Christian works are when people that have been born again by the Spirit of God are propelled by the indwelling Holy Spirit to be obedient to His Word for His glory and no other reason.
 - a. The person will do good works almost instinctively by the prompting of the Spirit indwelling them.

- b. If asked why they are a Christian, they will speak about what “Christ has done for them on the cross and that they are a new creation through their faith in him.”

7) **Verse 16-17 LIFESTYLE and REPUTATION define God’s true believer**

- a. **16 And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. 17 From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.**

- i. Walk by this rule...what rule? The law of Christ - verses 14-15, becoming a “new creation” in Christ.

1. Rule [canon] measuring rod or cane
2. Peace and mercy be upon them - because they are truly God’s children, the chose Priesthood as Peter calls us.

(a) *The Israel of God* - It is best, then, to see the “Israel of God” as an eschatological reference to the whole people of God, who will find mercy through the Messiah, including both converted Gentiles (the wild olive shoots who have been grafted in) and completed Jews (the natural branches God will yet redeem). In the mysterious providence of God, the temporal hardening of national Israel has opened the door for the evangelization of the Gentiles

(b) *From now on, let know one cause me trouble* - “I have told you the truth, I have given you as faithfully as possible the revelation that Christ gave me...I’m not backing down...let no one cause me trouble...LEAVE ME ALONE...for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus...I have put my own life on the line...I have put my money where my mouth is...personal sacrifice for the Kingdom of God.

- i. Marks - Paul bore the marks of Christian persecution, scars and ailments from being beaten and almost killed...much different than the braggarting being done by the false teachers who were making the issue of circumcision their calling card.

8) **CLOSE**

- a. Luke 18:9-14 - He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: 10 “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”