

**Woodland Baptist Church**  
**Morning Worship - December 9, 2012**  
**Galatians 6:11-18 Bearing the Genuine Marks of Christ**

1. **Read Galatians 6:9-18 [Revisit verses 9-10]**
2. Verse 11 Paul wrote with his \_\_\_\_\_ hand
  - 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.
    - ii. Putting things in writing carries a little more weight and severity than verbal communication.
    - iii. Written record that can be used to prove what transpired.
  - b. Both of these scenarios have been suggested:
    - i. Paul wrote the entire letter, which caused him to call attention to the length and severity of the letter, by using large uncial letters.
    - ii. Paul's amanuensis [secretary] wrote the letter, then Paul took over at the very end and personally wrote the post script to prove his authorship
3. Verses 12-13 Works \_\_\_\_\_ results in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 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.**
    - i. Who are those that want to make a good showing?
      - ii. Matthew 23:1-7 - 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.
      - iii. **They force circumcision to avoid persecution...**from who?
        - iv. They push circumcision although they themselves don't and can't keep the law, but they push it, so they can boast in it.
        - v. 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 circumcised for salvation.
4. Verse 14 As a new \_\_\_\_\_ we boast in Christ \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 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 be 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.
    - iii. **1 John2:15-17** - Do not love the world or the things in the world...
  - b. **Circumcision nor uncircumcision count for anything** - outward religious acts have no bearing on salvation. Initiation of salvation comes through the convicting power of the Holy Spirit in combination with the preaching of the Word of God.
    - i. Contrast of works righteousness vs. good deeds  
(1) Isaiah 64:6 vs. Matthew 5:16
5. Verses 16-17 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ define the 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.
    - ii. **Rule** [canon] measuring rod or cane - law of Christ [OT & NT]
  - b. **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
  - c. **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.
6. CLOSE
  - a. **Luke 18:9-14** - Parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector