

## Living By The Rule

### Galatians 6:16-18

#### Intro:

- A. Paul has condemned those who glory in the number of people they circumcise.
  - 1. Vs. 12 "a fair shew in the flesh"
  - 2. "that they may glory in your flesh."
- B. He has given them the object in which all men are to boast.
  - 1. Vs. 14 "God forbid that I should glory..."
  - 2. "save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ."
- C. In salvation only one thing counts.
  - 1. "a new creation."
  - 2. Outward rites and rituals have no meaning.
- D. Paul pronounces blessings upon those who have this same opinion and live by this standard.
  - 1. "peace be upon them"
  - 2. "mercy...be upon them"

#### I. Walking By The Rule.

- A. "And as many as walk according to this rule,..."
  - 1. "Walk" = στοιχεω = "to stand or go in order", "to advance in rows", "to walk orderly", "live by law".
  - 2. "Rule" = κανων = "a measuring rod or line, hence a code or rules or canon."
- B. This rule is Not the Bible!
  - 1. The measure is the object of boasting.
  - 2. May everyone use this rule, never boast about anything but the cross!

#### II. The Blessings Of Living By This Rule.

- A. Blessing number one.
  - 1. "peace be on them".
  - 2. "Peace" = ειρηνη = "rest", "the absence of strife".
  - 3. The boasting of preachers about what they have done disturbs the peace of God's people.
- B. "...and mercy..." (blessing number two)
  - 1. "Mercy" = ελεος = "active compassion"
  - 2. God is always anxious to help those who are humble and in need. the braggart will never ask for mercy

for he needs none, He is God's helper. God needs him but he does not need God.

- C. **"...and upon the Israel of God."**
1. These Judaizers are not God's people.
  2. The people who believe right and walk right are the true people of God.

III. Paul Declares His Freedom From These Judaizers.

- A. **Vs.17 "From henceforth let no man trouble me:"**
1. "From henceforth" = του λοιπου = "in respect of remaining time".
  2. "Trouble" = κοπος = "trouble", "interfere".
  3. To cause Paul problems over his ministry.
- B. **"for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus."**
1. "Bear" = βασταζω = "to lift up", "exhibit".
  2. "Marks" = στιγμα = "a burnt mark, a brand".
  3. "For I bear in my body the brand marks of Jesus' ownership." - Ber.
  4. These "marks" were the scars that Paul had received for being faithful. His decisions were always based on what is right and not what will happen. If we do things only on what will happen we become fearful or mercenary.

IV. Paul's Benediction.

- A. **Vs. 18 "Brethren, the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen"**
1. The peace of Jesus is based upon one's relationship to God. Paul wants the Galatians to have the same relationship with God as Jesus had.
  2. This peace is always spirit to spirit.
- B. Our benedictions.
1. They are usually carnal.
  2. They are usually selfish.