

## Galatians 6:14-18

14-16 But God forbid that I should **GLORY** except in the **CROSS** of our **LORD JESUS CHRIST**, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus **NEITHER circumcision NOR uncircumcision AVAILS ANYTHING**, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, **PEACE** and **MERCY** be upon them, and **upon the Israel of God**.

•II **Corinthians 5:12-17** “For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ on our behalf, that you may have something to answer those who \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ and not in \_\_\_\_\_. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; or if we are of sound mind, it is for you. For the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ constrains us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all \_\_\_\_\_; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ for them and \_\_\_\_\_ again. Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know him thus no longer. Therefore, if \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_, he is a \_\_\_\_\_ creation; \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_ (died); behold, all things have become \_\_\_\_\_.”

•**Romans 15:17-19** “Therefore I have reason to \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ in the things which pertain to \_\_\_\_\_. For I will \_\_\_\_\_ dare to \_\_\_\_\_ of any of those things which \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_ through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient – in mighty signs and wonders, by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.”

•**Ephesians 2:11** “Therefore remember that you, who were once \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ -- who are called \_\_\_\_\_ by those who are called the \_\_\_\_\_, in the \_\_\_\_\_, made by \_\_\_\_\_ hands.”

•**Colossians 2:11-13** “In Him you were also \_\_\_\_\_ with the circumcision made \_\_\_\_\_, by putting off the body of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, by the circumcision of \_\_\_\_\_, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were \_\_\_\_\_ with Him through \_\_\_\_\_ in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being \_\_\_\_\_ in your trespasses (sins) and the \_\_\_\_\_ of your flesh, He has made \_\_\_\_\_ together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses (sins).”

**Definition: “NEITHER circumcision NOR uncircumcision AVAILS ANYTHING” –**

To avail means to accomplish something, to do some good. Paul is saying that whether a person is circumcised or not circumcised **does not matter - it is of no importance to our salvation**. It does not accomplish anything or do any good in regards to our relationship with God. In the Old Testament, under the law of Moses, **circumcision was the outward “sign” (in the flesh) of the fact that the nation of Israel belonged to God**. In Romans 4, Paul even brings up **the argument that Abraham was not circumcised until AFTER he had BELIEVED and been MADE RIGHTEOUS in God’s sight**. Again, the “sign of circumcision” was to the Jews only, and since Abraham was the father of the Jews, that is the only reason God required him to be circumcised at all - it didn’t have anything to do with his faith. As Christians, under the New Covenant, **we are NOT the nation of Israel, and we don’t need any fleshly signs, as our new birth is in the spirit man**. However, we do have one outward sign of belonging to Christ, and that is water baptism. We get baptized in water in front of witnesses to show that we have now given our lives to Jesus Christ. The water is a symbol of the inner cleansing we have from the Holy Spirit.

•**Colossians 3:10-11** “And have put on the \_\_\_\_\_ who is renewed (created) in knowledge according to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.”

•**Romans 4:8-16** “Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall \_\_\_\_\_ impute sin. Does this blessedness then come upon the \_\_\_\_\_ only, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say that \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ to Abraham for \_\_\_\_\_. How then was it accounted? While he was \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_? \_\_\_\_\_ while circumcised. But while \_\_\_\_\_. And he received the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of \_\_\_\_\_ those who \_\_\_\_\_, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed (given) to them also, and the father of \_\_\_\_\_ to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the \_\_\_\_\_ which our father Abraham had while still \_\_\_\_\_.

For the \_\_\_\_\_ that he would be the heir of the world was \_\_\_\_\_ to Abraham or to his seed through the \_\_\_\_\_, but through the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. For \_\_\_\_\_ those who are of the \_\_\_\_\_ are heirs, \_\_\_\_\_ is made \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ made of \_\_\_\_\_, because the \_\_\_\_\_ brings about \_\_\_\_\_; for where there is no law, there is no transgression. Therefore it is of \_\_\_\_\_ that it might be according to \_\_\_\_\_, so that the promise might be sure to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, not only those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, who is the \_\_\_\_\_ of us all.”

**Definition: “PUTTING OFF the BODY of the SINS of the FLESH, by the CIRCUMCISION of CHRIST”** – No human rite of circumcision in our flesh (our human, physical body) means anything to God. What these verses in Colossians are saying is that **CHRIST HIMSELF PERFORMS a “circumcision” of our SPIRITS** when we are born again, and the old sin nature of our flesh is cut away, and does not remain a part of our spirit anymore. This is necessary, because we could not enter God’s presence when we get to heaven if we still had that old sin nature in our spirits. Romans 6:6 says it is “the old man” that was crucified with Christ. The old man is your human nature, warped by sin (“**the BODY of the SINS of the FLESH**”). It is the person you were BEFORE you were BORN AGAIN - your old sin-loving SELF, who felt comfortable and at home with sin. Colossians 2:11-12 says God surgically removed the old, dead sin nature from your spirit when He raised you up to new life in Christ. Jesus brought in the NEW COVENANT (New Testament), and there is no longer any “sign” of our covenant that is in our flesh (our physical bodies). **Our covenant with God is through the blood of Jesus, and it is a SPIRITUAL covenant.** God performs a spiritual circumcision, a REMOVAL of our SINS from us, and causes us to be re-born and **MADE ALIVE in our spirits.** A person who has NOT had this SPIRITUAL RE-BIRTH is **spiritually DEAD, AND THEY cannot WORSHIP God in the spirit.**

•**Philippians 3:3** “For we are the \_\_\_\_\_ (TRUE WORSHIPERS), who \_\_\_\_\_ God in the \_\_\_\_\_, rejoice in \_\_\_\_\_ and have no confidence in the \_\_\_\_\_.”

•**John 4:23-24** “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the \_\_\_\_\_ worshippers will \_\_\_\_\_ the Father in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; for the Father is seeking such to \_\_\_\_\_ Him. God is Spirit, and those who \_\_\_\_\_ Him must worship in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Definition: “GLORY except in the CROSS of our LORD JESUS CHRIST”** – This word for “glory” means to give praise. It does **NOT** have the **negative connotation of prideful boasting**, as is meant in verse 13, where the false teachers were boasting of their converts “in the flesh.” **Paul GLORIES and REJOICES and PRAISES God for the SACRIFICE of Jesus Christ on the CROSS - for His DEATH and RESURRECTION,** and he does not rely on or place any hope in anything of the flesh.

•**Romans 2:25-29** “For \_\_\_\_\_ is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your \_\_\_\_\_ has become \_\_\_\_\_. Therefore, if an uncircumcised man \_\_\_\_\_ the righteous \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, will not his \_\_\_\_\_ be counted as \_\_\_\_\_? And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the \_\_\_\_\_, judge you who even with your \_\_\_\_\_ code and circumcision, are a transgressor of the law? For he is \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ who is one, nor is that circumcision which is \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_; but he is a Jew who is one \_\_\_\_\_, and circumcision is that of the \_\_\_\_\_, in the \_\_\_\_\_.”

\_\_\_\_\_, and not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.”

•**Romans 6:3-6** “Or do you not know that as many of us as were \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_ were baptized into His \_\_\_\_\_ (on the CROSS)? Therefore we were \_\_\_\_\_ with Him through baptism into \_\_\_\_\_, that just as Christ was \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_ by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His \_\_\_\_\_, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His \_\_\_\_\_. Knowing that our \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.”

**Definition: “The world has been CRUCIFIED to ME”** – “The world” in this sense is the evil, satanic world system (Greek word is “kosmos”) that is totally opposite to God’s kingdom of righteousness. The Believer in Christ is **spiritually dead to this world system**, and it is dead to us, because of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

•**Galatians 2:20** “I have been \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but \_\_\_\_\_ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

•**Galatians 5:24** “And those who are Christ’s have \_\_\_\_\_ the flesh with its \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.”

•**Colossians 3:1-3** “If then you were \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ, seek those things which are above [*heavenly things*], where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your \_\_\_\_\_ in things \_\_\_\_\_, not on things on the \_\_\_\_\_. For you \_\_\_\_\_, and your life is \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ in God.”

**Definition: “To THOSE who are of the FAITH of Abraham, who is the FATHER of us all”** – Jesus had many conflicts with the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders **who thought they were righteous and “saved” in God’s sight simply because they were descended from Abraham**. Jesus made it very clear, and Paul makes it clear here that **ONLY those who have the same kind of FAITH as Abraham** are considered his descendants (“**ABRAHAM’S SEED**”). As far as God is concerned, the important thing is to be a SPIRITUAL descendant of Abraham. Abraham is called the “Father of Faith,” so **if we have put our FAITH in Christ**, we are Abraham’s descendants (“seed”).

•**Galatians 3:6-7** “Just as \_\_\_\_\_ ‘Believed God, and it was \_\_\_\_\_ to him for \_\_\_\_\_.” Therefore know that \_\_\_\_\_ those who are of \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.”

•**Galatians 3:29** “And if you are \_\_\_\_\_, then you are \_\_\_\_\_, and heirs according to the \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Definition: “The ISRAEL of GOD”** – This does NOT mean the church of Jesus Christ. The church is not Israel. **However, it is referring to those who are of Jewish descent (physically and ethnically are Jewish), and are ALSO BELIEVERS in JESUS their MESSIAH. These are the “true Jews” - those who have believed in and accepted their Messiah, Jesus Christ.** God has divided people into three distinct categories: (1.) unbelieving Jews (the nation of Israel), (2.) unbelieving Gentiles, and (3.) the church of God, which is the body of Christ, and which is made up of Believers who are Gentiles (non-Jewish background), and Believers who are ethnically Jewish.

• **I Corinthians 10:32** “Give no offense, either to the \_\_\_\_\_, or to the \_\_\_\_\_, or to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.”

• **Romans 9:6-8** “But it is not that the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ has taken no effect. For they are \_\_\_\_\_ all \_\_\_\_\_ who are of Israel, nor are they all \_\_\_\_\_ because they are the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_; but ‘In Isaac your seed shall be called.’ That is, those who are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, these are \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_; but the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ are counted as the \_\_\_\_\_.”

17 From now on **let no one TROUBLE ME, for I BEAR in my BODY the MARKS of the Lord Jesus.**

• **II Corinthians 11:24-27** “From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one (a severe whipping). Three times I was \_\_\_\_\_ with rods; once I was \_\_\_\_\_; three times I was \_\_\_\_\_; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils (danger) of waters, in perils of \_\_\_\_\_, in perils of my own countrymen (the Jews), in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in \_\_\_\_\_ and toil, in sleeplessness often, in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.....“

**Definition: “Let no one TROUBLE ME, for I BEAR in my BODY the MARKS of the Lord Jesus”** – When Paul says “Let no one trouble me” he means “Don’t bother me” or “Don’t give me a hard time” or argue with him. **Paul claims that the many WOUNDS and SCARS (from persecution as a Christian) that he bears in his physical body are evidence that he belongs to Jesus Christ. He calls them “the MARKS of the Lord Jesus” - those SCARS he received from beatings and persecution because of his belief in Christ.**

18 Brethren, the **GRACE of our Lord Jesus Christ be with YOUR SPIRIT.** Amen.

• **Philemon 25** “The \_\_\_\_\_ of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_ be with your \_\_\_\_\_. Amen.”

• **II Timothy 4:22** “The Lord \_\_\_\_\_ be with your \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ be with you. Amen.”

• **I Corinthians 16:23-24** “The \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ of our Lord  
\_\_\_\_\_ be with you. My \_\_\_\_\_ be with  
you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.”