

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.”