

Closing the Book



The
EPISTLE To The
GALATIANS

Paul's Epistle to the Galatians!

The Text:

Galatians 6:11-18!

The Title:

How, then, shall we live?

The Theme:

The Gospel of Grace!

Paul writes to defend three truths:

1ST ... Paul defends his calling as a MESSENGER of God's Gospel!

2ND ... Paul defends the MESSAGE of the Gospel!

3RD ... Paul defends the practicality of God's grace in MINISTRY!

In this epistle Paul turns our attention from the theological to the practical.

Here Paul reminds us that head knowledge (theology) without a heart for God is useless. In other words, what we know to be true must be lived if it is to be understood and accepted by others.

The Sandwich Approach "With a Twist"

- I. (1:1-10) Paul's PROLOGUE to Galatians.
- II. (1:11-2:21) Paul's PERSONAL defense.
- III. (3:1-4:31) Paul's POLEMIC argument.
- IV. (5:1-6:10) Paul's PRACTICAL exhortation.
- V. (6:11-18) Paul's POSTLUDE to Galatians.

The Prologue

Focus: The Basics

(The Believer is to pay attention because this is important)

1. (1:1-2a) The author

The Personal Defense

Focus: The source of
Paul's authority is
God.

(The Believer is to
acknowledge that if Paul's
authority comes from God, his

The Polemic Argument

Focus: The
Message of
Faith vs. Works.

(The Believer is to
recognize that God's

The Practical Exhortation

Focus: How
Justification by Faith
Relates to the
Christian's Life.

(The Believer is to be a Living
Testimony of God's Gospel

The Practical Exhortation

I. (5:1-12) Paul **Exhorts** us to live in Liberty!

II. (5:13-15) Paul **Explains** that liberty is revealed by LOVE!

III. (5:16-26) Paul calls us to **Evaluate** our LIVES!

IV. (6:1-10) Paul gives two **Examples** of how LIBERTY and LOVE are to be applied in our LIVES!

A. (6:1-5) **1ST Example**: The Spirit filled man's deeds before those who are **not** Spirit filled!

B. (6:6-10) **2ND Example**: The Spirit filled man's deeds before those who **are** Spirit filled!

The Postlude

Focus: How, then,
shall we live?

(The Believer must choose to
live for the glory of God,
rather than the praise of men)

1 (6:11) The

The Postlude

Focus: Paul's Concern (6:11)

(The Believer must recognize
Paul's concern that we get it
right)

1 It was normal for

The Postlude

Focus: The Believer's Motives (6:12-16)

(The Believer must recognize
that we have a choice)

1 (6:10-16) L. J.

The Postlude

Focus: The Believer's Motives (6:12-16)

(The Believer must recognize
that we have a choice)

(6:12-13) Living for

The Postlude

Focus: The Believer's Motives (6:12-16)

(The Believer must recognize
that we have a choice)

(6:14-16) Living for

The Postlude

Focus: Paul's Conclusion (6:17-18)

(The Believer must choose to live in the
grace of God)

Paul's choice clear:

- He can bear the marks of the Judaizers or Jesus, NOT both.

Points of Application!

1. We need to know the word of God. Sound doctrine is important. In this letter to the Galatian churches Paul is rebuking the Judaizers for their bad theology, and the Galatians for believing it, right up to the end.

1. We need to continuously evaluate why we do what we do. In the closing passage of the letter, Paul contrasts the motives of the legalist with the motives of the spirit-filled believer. They are not the same, and the difference involves leading a life that seeks the approval of man, rather than the glory of God.

1. We need to recognize that living a spirit-filled life may cost us some things in life that we value and enjoy, but the rewards are worth it. The marks of Jesus are more difficult to bear than the marks of what might appear to be a more palatable religious system. Don't be deceived. Those who have suffered for Christ, have something to offer, and the world needs what spirit-filled Christians have to offer.