

Galatians 6:11-18 Commentary:

+Being on staff at Calvary Coasta Mesa included the privilege of sitting under Chuck Smith's weekly Bible study. One of the more impactful messages was going through the Gospel of Matthew. Chapter 13 was the topic at hand and included the Parables of Jesus. He went on record with the statement, "No pastor should teach through the parables until they have been in ministry for 30 years." This is a powerful statement. It isn't to say that through study and simple reading that the parables can't be understood. However, the point of this statement was that in order for the truths to fully sink in to the life of anyone in the ministry, they would need that much time under their belt to have seen it personally in action.

Matthew 13:24-30:

-At any given moment, there are individuals who are genuine and fruitful stocks of wheat, and others who are spiritual tares. Tares are for all intents and purposes weeds that look like wheat in everything but purpose. They serve no other purpose but to take up space. The solution to this insight is the same solution to hypocrisy in the church. They're going to be there, but the key is to not to be one yourself. Christian integrity is what makes the difference between a saint and an ain't. The book of Galatians concludes with the topic of integrity in these three ways. Integrity in our Emotions: How God's grace makes our attitudes genuine.

Integrity in our Lives: How God's grace makes the work He's doing on the inside as apparent on the outside.

Integrity by Example: How God's grace demonstrated through our lives becomes like a good infection. Something more effectively caught than taught.

+Galatians is a book discussing a church in crisis. People under the title of Judiazers demanded the non-Jewish converts to Christianity to become Jews in order for their salvation to become genuine. This is commonly known today as legalism. Anytime your salvation becomes a matter more than the completed work of Jesus Christ, you've missed the whole point. The response to this is usually an accusation of "cheap grace" and that our salvation isn't genuine if not first proven. Works have their place, but understand that grace was not cheap. It cost God His Son. A person who understands this will recognize that even in light of all that Jesus has done to save them, only the hardest of hearts will be able to sin up a storm leaving Jesus' blood to sweep up after them. Paul makes a series of points to clarify this matter throughout the book to make sure they remember the cross more than anything else.

Galatians 6:11:

+Commentators are often found scratching their heads as to why this statement was included in Galatians. However, it's actually pretty straight forward. When people write in all capitals even in our own language, IT MEANS YOU WANT THEM TO WAKE UP. It generally suggests a point they are really trying to drive home to the point that they are willing to put their emotions behind it. Paul's yelling through this letter with no apologies.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4:

+Paul needed to make a point to clarify certain matters because false teachers had been writing the churches letters in Paul's name. To authenticate the things he sent them from the source, he did the following.

2 Thessalonians 3:17:

+This was how Paul provided authentication to the doctrine he was writing as actually from him. He signed on the line.

-If you don't do your spiritual homework, someone else will do it for you. If the Bible hasn't stressed this point enough in principal, see the practical example of the people of Berea who

were commended for checking the Apostle Paul up on the things he taught them.
Acts 17:11:

Galatians 4:13-16:

+Paul makes a point that when he ministered to them, it was because of a detour on account of poor health. Many theories have been suggested as to what exactly was Paul's infirmity, but all we know for certain is that it was a problem with his eyes. Anyone who wears contact lenses knows that when there is a problem with your eyes, you're out.

2 Corinthians 12:7:

-The large letters weren't just because of his poor eyesight, but the largeness of his heart towards them. Anyone can dodge the issues and remain under the radar of controversy, but the same person can't claim integrity. The more you communicate that you care, you may not warrant the best kind of attention, but you will demonstrate this key feature of the Christian life.

Luke 16:10:

+We prefer being faithful in much. However, Jesus' point is for you to make His heart your aim in even the smallest of matters. Paul demonstrates this kind of integrity by how Paul communicated this letter with no room for compromise.

Galatians 6:12:

+The three signs of an individual who is not a person of integrity is given here.

1. A False Teacher wants to look spiritual rather than actually being spiritual. God doesn't build movie sets and ghosts towns in hearts and lives. Either it is a genuine work of God from the inside out, or it's not.

1 Samuel 16:6-7:

-False teachers reversed God's standard. Instead of looking at the heart, they focused only on the life they showed to others.

2. A False Teacher wanted to persuade men to avoid persecution.

-The historical background behind this matter was the distinction between Christians and Jews in 1st Century Rome. Judaism was a protected religion in the Roman Empire, but since the Sanhedrin back in Jerusalem weren't fond of the Christian movement at all, they began to sell this idea to save their own skins. If they could curry favor with the big names of Judaism in Judea, then hopefully they could avoid getting targets painted on their backs like the Christians who were living the genuine Christian life no matter what it cost them.

+Christianity is dangerous. We may not see it as palpably as other areas of the world like Europe, China, and Muslim majority countries where they are imprisoned and even executed for their faith. However any visit to a public forum or university would find that the moment a "spiritual" individual calls on the name of Jesus exclusively, then you will see how fallen men's hearts truly are. The venom loosed in those places towards God seems only triggered by the name of Jesus. Muslims, Buddhists, and even Citrus fruit worshippers are welcomed, yet a spiritual blindness narrows on the person of Jesus even in the most religiously liberated areas of the world. The Judaizers wanted to have the cake of freedom in Christ, and eat the acceptance in Rome too. Paul noted that you couldn't have both. The world didn't give them that option.

3. A False Teacher's message is given devoid of love. They'll point to numbers of converts. However, numbers sometimes do lie. Hitler was extremely popular in Germany, but the majority support didn't make him any less of a maniac when his plans for the Jews and ultimately the Christians as well came to the surface. We need to avoid arrogance like the plague because it fuels this mentality of presenting God's word without God's heart.

"Too many climb atop a cross to be seen from a greater distance even if it means trampling on the One who has been hanging on it."

Galatians 6:13-15:

+Chuck Smith noted that his early faith was based on the fact he didn't do certain things and did others the church approved of. The moment he discovered liberty in Christ was when he understood that when Jesus said "It is finished," He meant it. Nothing he had to offer gave any credit to his faith but Who he had put his faith in.

+If you make God's Mercy your focus, Peace follows. We have nothing to prove, and nothing to lose. It's not about what we do. It's about what's been done.

Galatians 6:16-18:

+Galatians was addressing the controversy of circumcision in greater details than most would be comfortable hearing. Paul makes this note by bringing their minds off of the physical mark of circumcision and pointing them to the marks his ministry had brought to his entire body. The Christian life hurts, but it is hurt with a purpose. God didn't give us a life of pain with a letter telling us "Good luck." He went first. He demonstrated integrity through the love demonstrated by the cross.

"To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable... The only place to be free from the hazard of love is Hell. To love is to be vulnerable." -C.S. Lewis