

Never forget Grace

Grace, part 9

Key passage: Galatians 6:11-18

June 6, 2010

¹¹See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand!

¹²Those who want to impress others by means of the flesh are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³Not even those who are circumcised keep the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your circumcision in the flesh.

¹⁴May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

¹⁵Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation. ¹⁶Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to the Israel of God.

¹⁷From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

¹⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

You know you're living God's grace when...

You're _____ in the cross

You're _____ into someone new

You're _____ being marked as a follower of Jesus Christ

Isaiah 26:8

Revelation 21:5

Study Questions:

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.

Key passage: Galatians 6:11-18

1. What questions did this week's message raise for you?
2. Read Galatians 6:11-18 together.
 - a) Paul is summarizing in a way that he usually doesn't at the end of his letters. What do you see as his main summary points that he wants us to "get" from his letter to the Galatians?
 - b) Who is he calling the "Israel of God" (v. 16)? What do you think he means by that?
3. Galatians 6:14-15 are two of the most important verses in the whole NT in describing what the cross of Jesus has accomplished. Tom Wright says this about 14-15:

By contrast, Paul opens up, here in this last segment of the letter, a God's-eye view of reality which lifts our minds and hearts out beyond Galatia, out beyond the sordid details of campaigns and plots in the primitive church, and out into the rich and wide-ranging purposes of the God of love for the whole cosmos. Not only has Messiah been crucified. Not only have Christians been crucified with him (2:19-20; 5:24). The world itself has been crucified. Calvary was the turning-point of history. The cosmos has had sentence of death passed on it –so that God's new world, God's new creation, can be born out of the old. This new creation began with Jesus himself at his resurrection, continues with the spirit-given new life which wells up in all those who belong to the Messiah, and will go on until, as Paul says in Romans 8, the whole creation will be set free from its own slavery and will share the freedom of the glory of God's children.

What is your reaction to that statement in regards to what the Bible says?

4. Spend some time in your group praying for each other, that you would be able to "boast in the cross," keep changing into God's "new creation," and risk being "marked" by him...this week. That is, that you will live in God's grace.