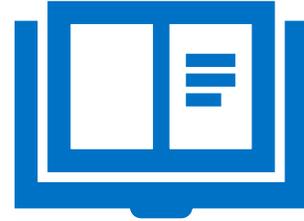


Lesson 8

GALATIANS

6:11-6:18 – CONCLUSION



Introduction

Suppose you knew that someone was poisoning your loved ones. What would you do?

Content

Let's consider what Paul meant when he said that he wrote with large letters. There are several options to consider:

- 1) Paul had a scribe write the letter as he narrated it. Then, he took over writing at this moment to indicate that this letter was not a forgery; rather, it was his letter. (2 Thessalonians 3:17, 1 Corinthians 16:21, Colossians 4:18, Philemon 19)
- 2) Paul refers to the entire letter. This is a reference to the length of the letter.
- 3) Paul refers to the entire letter. This is a reference to some physical disability of his. (Acts 9:1-19, 2 Corinthians 12:6-7)

React to this statement: If the Apostle Paul did not write this book by hand, we should question the legitimacy of the verbal inspiration of this letter. (Cf. Jeremiah 36:4, Romans 16:22, 1 Peter 5:12)

On the topic of verbal inspiration, let's consider why this book is included in the canon of Scripture.

In this letter, Paul uses polemics. He makes strong attacks on his opponents. He calls them selfish and dishonest. (vv. 12-13)

Is there use for polemics in our defense of the Christian faith today? Why or why not?

Paul was only willing to boast in the cross of Christ. Why can we, too, boast in this way? (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

Paul notes that the false teachers were boastful. This is not uncommon for false teachers, though. (Jude 16, 2 Peter 2:18-19)
Boasting is sinful. Why is that action so wrong?

Because of his relationship with Christ, Paul no longer had a close relationship with the sinful world. This is the same for us. Although we are not of this sinful world, we live in this world. Therefore, we will have to struggle in making certain decisions about living in this world to whom we are crucified. Let's take a moment to consider how we navigate the following aspects of the world.

As workers –

As consumers –

As residents –

Paul's ultimate concern was not for the outward actions of the Galatian Christians but the inward reality. So how does Paul serve as a good example for us as we care for others?

What rule is Paul speaking of in verse 16?

If we look back to Galatians 3:17, we will see who the Israel of God is. Of whom is Paul speaking in this verse?

Notice the contrast between Paul and his opponents. They were self-serving. Paul let himself suffer for the sake of the gospel and the people. (v. 17) Paul lists the physical suffering that he faced for the sake of the gospel in 2 Corinthians 11:23-27.

Conclusion

If you were given only one word to describe the book of Galatians, what word would you use?