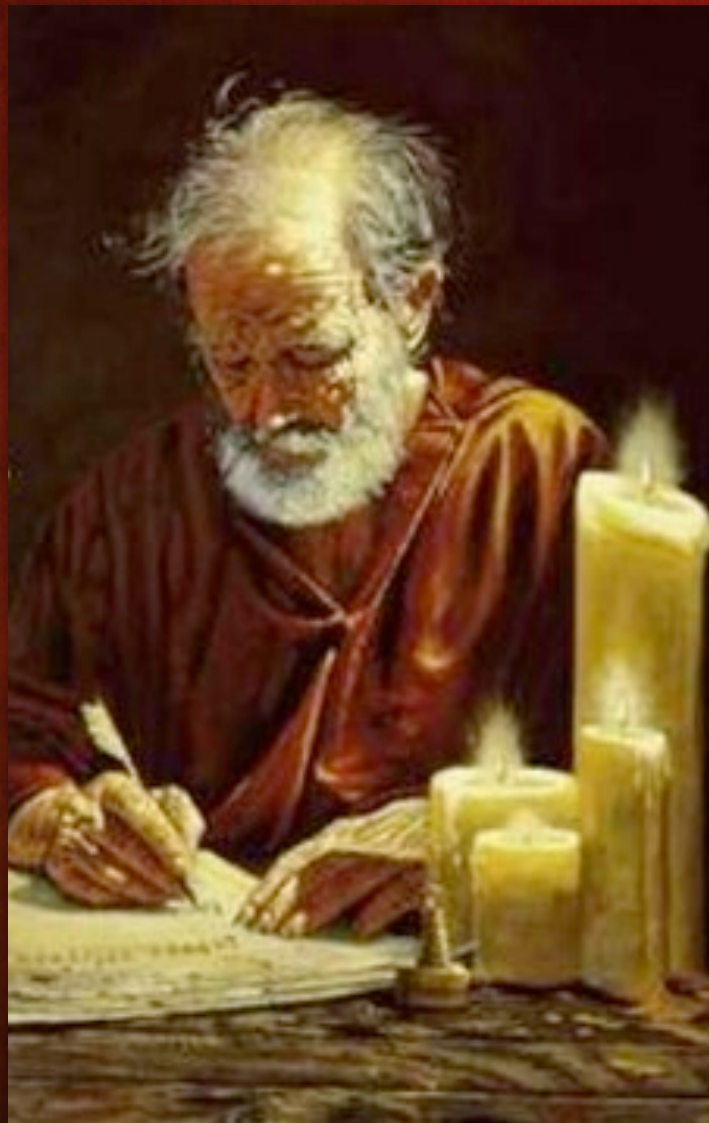


Galatians 6:11-18¹

The
EPISTLE To The
GALATIANS

“The Actual ‘Israel’ of God” –

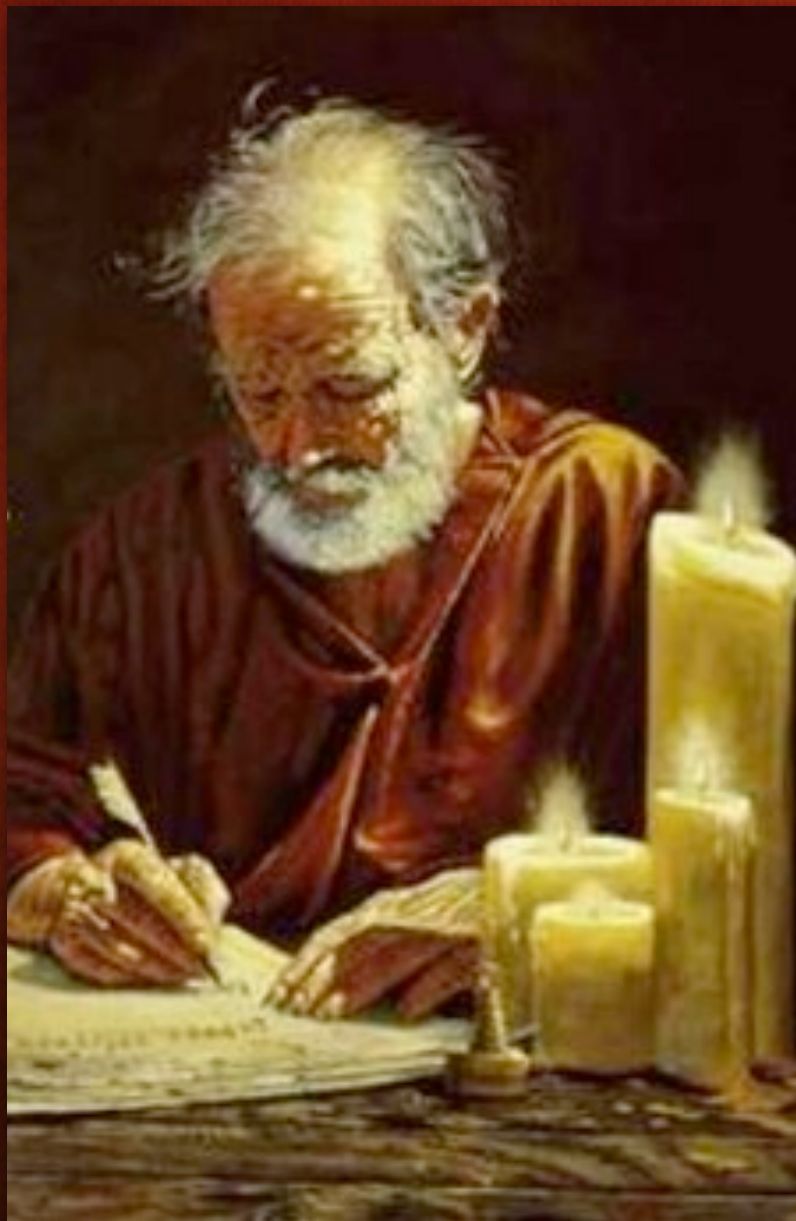
“The Actual ‘Israel’ of God” – 6:11–18



- **Paul Defends His Apostleship – (1:11–2:21)**
- **Promise of Abraham Not Through The Law But Through Faith In Christ! – (3:1–29)**
- **In Christ We Are Adopted As Sons & Heirs of God Through Christ! – (3:26–4:7)**
- **Paul’s Concern For The Churches – (4:8–20)**
- **“Allegory of Hagar & Sarah”—(4:21–31)**
- **“Stand Fast—Don’t Fall!” – 5:1–7**
- **“Sin of Hindering Others” – 5:8–15**
- **“The Flesh, (Law), & Spirit, (Gospel), Produce Different Things” – 5:16–26**
- **“Fulfilling The Law of Christ” – Bearing Burdens – reaping what we sow – 6:1–10**

“The Actual ‘Israel’ of God” – 6:11–18

Practical Application of Christian Liberty – Galatians 5,6

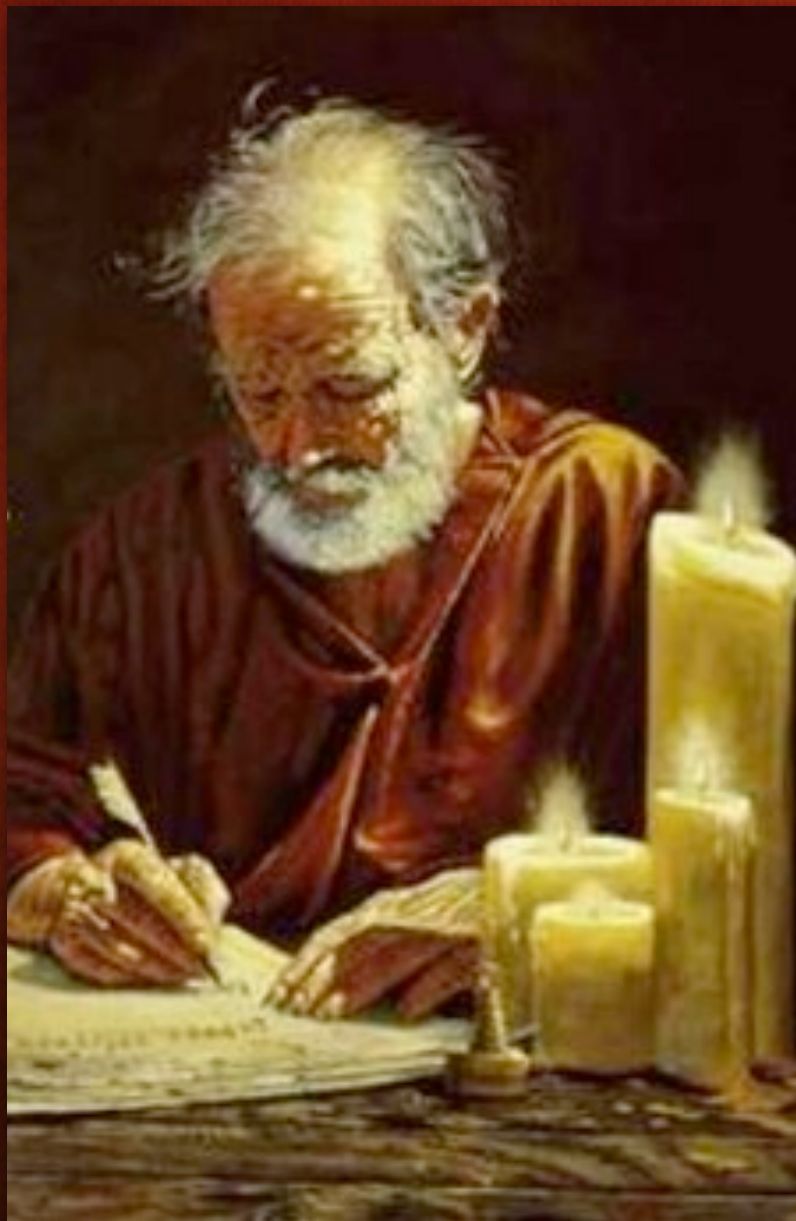


● **Personal Responsibility Cannot Be Shifted –**

- ✦ Standing fast in the liberty by which Christ has made us free – 5:1-6 (cf 1:6-9; 3:26,27)
- ✦ Fulfilling the “Law of Love” – 5:7-15
- ✦ Walking in the Spirit – 5:16-26
- ✦ Fulfilling the law of Christ - 6:1-10

“The Actual ‘Israel’ of God” – 6:11–18

Final Warnings Concerning The Judaizers



- **Their motivation – 12**
- **Their inconsistency – 13**
- **Their misguided focus – 14**
- **What they were missing – 15,16**
- **Paul’s appeal & farewell – 17,18**

Galatians 6:11-18 (NKJV)

¹¹ See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! ¹² As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these *would* compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. ¹³ For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.

Galatians 6:11-18 (NKJV)

¹⁴ But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

Galatians 6:11-18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, and upon the Israel of God. ¹⁷ From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁸ Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen.

“The Actual ‘Israel’ of God” – 6:11–18

From Paul’s own hand – 6:11

✦ **Paul normally dictated his letters**

✦ **Often he would write a few words at the end to authenticate the letter**
(Rom 16:22, 1 Cor 16:21, Col 4:18, 2 Thes 3:17)

✦ **Here he writes with ‘LARGE letters’**



**Galatians 6:11
(NKJV)**

¹¹ See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!

“The Actual ‘Israel’ of God” – 6:11–18

From Paul’s own hand – 6:11



**Galatians 6:11
(NKJV)**

¹¹ See with what
large letters I
have written to
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hand!

At this point Paul took the pen from his scribe and wrote the rest of the letter himself, a practice he often followed (cf. 1 Cor. 16:21; Col. 4:18; 2 Thes. 3:17). The large letters he used probably did not refer to the length of the epistle as some have suggested but to the size of the letters he inscribed.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary

“The Actual ‘Israel’ of God” – 6:11–18

From Paul’s own hand – 6:11

It may be that Paul wrote the conclusion in capital letters after the rest of the epistle was penned mostly in lowercase letters. While it has often been suggested that he did so because he was afflicted with weak eyesight, it is more likely, given the tone of the letter, that the apostle sought in this way to give a final emphatic thrust to his message.



**Galatians 6:11
(NKJV)**

¹¹ See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!

“The Actual ‘Israel’ of God” – 6:11–18

Their motivation – 12, 13b

Galatians 6:12
(NKJV)

¹² As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these *would* compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.

✦ **The Judaizers who insisted that circumcision was necessary for salvation (cf. Acts 15:1), in summary,**

- (1) were only men-pleasers (cf. Gal. 1:10) seeking to make a good impression outwardly;
- (2) were afraid of persecution (6:12b);
- (3) wanted to boast about the number of Galatians they hoped to win over to circumcision as a religious and merit-earning rite (v. 13b).

“The Actual ‘Israel’ of God” – 6:11–18

Their motivation – 12,13b

**Galatians 6:12
(NKJV)**

¹² As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these *would* compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.

✦ **These were orthodox Jews who sought to alleviate the persecution they were experiencing by adding the Law to the gospel.**

✦ **The Judaizers knew the offense of the Cross would be softened if they openly proclaimed justification by faith and the Law (i.e., circumcision) - Acts 6:13,14; 7:54-8:1; 14:19; 21:27-29; Gal. 5:11)**

“The Actual ‘Israel’ of God” – 6:11–18

Their inconsistency – 13a



**Galatians 6:13
(NKJV)**

¹³ For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.

- **Those who boasted in the flesh, (the Law), did not keep the Law**
 - ✳ To seek justification through the Law demanded the perfect keeping of it - which none had done - (cf. 3:10; Rom 3:23; 7)
 - ✳ They were demanding that others follow a system which they themselves were unwilling to keep - (cf. 5:3; Mat 23:3,15,23; Rom 2:17-24; 2 Pet 2:19)

“The Actual ‘Israel’ of God” – 6:11–18

Their misguided focus – 14



**Galatians 6:14
(NKJV)**

¹⁴ But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

- **They gloried in the flesh; Paul gloried in the Savior.**

- ✦ For the Judaizers the Cross was an object of shame; for Paul it was the object of glorying. - (cf. 1 Cor. 18-31)
- ✦ The “Cross” speaks of the atonement of Christ with which Paul was identified and by which the world was crucified to Paul and he to the world. - (cf. 2:20; Phil 3:1-11)

“The Actual ‘Israel’ of God” – 6:11–18

What they were missing – 15,16

**Galatians 6:15-16
(NKJV)**

¹⁵ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. ¹⁶ And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

● The Judaizers were not a part of the true ‘Israel’ of God!

- ✳ It is not physical circumcision, or lack thereof that makes one a child of God - (cf. 3:26-28; Rom 2:25-29)
- ✳ “A new creation” has reference to the one who has become a child of God by faith in Christ Jesus - who keep His commandments - (cf. 5:6; 1 Cor. 7:19; 2 Cor 5:17; Col. 2:12,13)

“The Actual ‘Israel’ of God” – 6:11–18

What they were missing – 15,16

Galatians 6:15-16 (NKJV)

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● The Judaizers were not a part of the true ‘Israel’ of God!

✳ Only those who “walk according to this rule” - (cf. 1:6-10; Phil 3:15,16)

- (1) Those who keep Christ’s commandments, (1 Cor 7:19)
- (2) Those whose “faith works from love” (Gal. 5:6)
- (3) Those who abide in Christ, (1 Cor. 5:17; John 15:1-10; 2 John 1:9)

“The Actual ‘Israel’ of God” – 6:11–18

What they were missing – 15,16

**Galatians 6:15-16
(NKJV)**

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● The Judaizers were not a part of the true ‘Israel’ of God!

- ✳ Only those who are children of God by faith in Christ have peace with God - Rom 15:33; Phil 4:4-9
- ✳ “The Israel of God” - The true church of God; all who are his true worshippers in Christ Jesus - Rom 2:28,29; 9:6; (also see John 10:15,16, 26,27)

“The Actual ‘Israel’ of God” – 6:11–18

Paul’s appeal & farewell – 17,18

Galatians 6:17-18 (NKJV)

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

¹⁸ Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen.

- **Paul desired a cessation of persecution from these false brethren**

- ✳ Paul’s apostleship & message he preached had been challenged by the Judaizers. He asked for an end to such trouble.
- ✳ He offered as an appeal for relief the “marks” he bore in his body - the marks of Jesus. (cf. 1 Cor. 4:11; 2 Cor. 4:10-11; 6:5, 9; 11:24-25)

“The Actual ‘Israel’ of God” – 6:11–18

Paul’s appeal & farewell – 17,18

Galatians 6:17-18 (NKJV)

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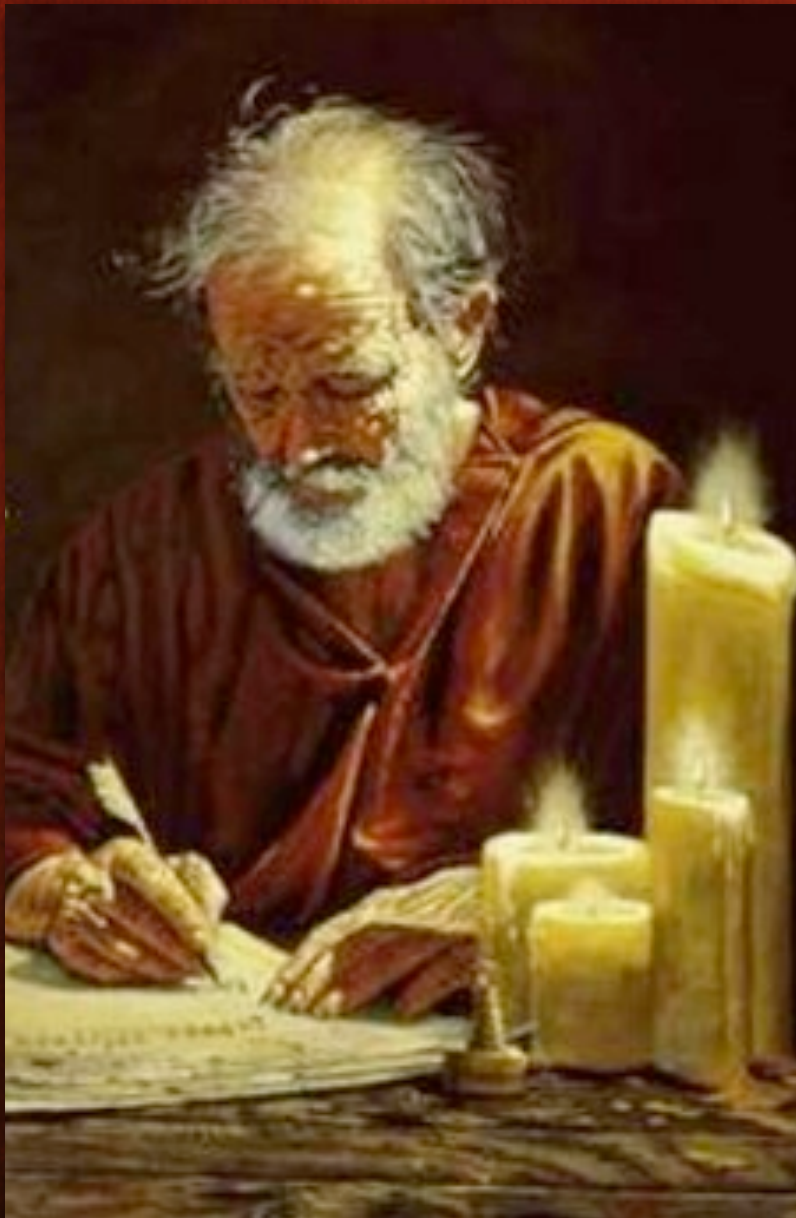
¹⁸ Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen.

- Paul desired a cessation of persecution from these false brethren

- ✦ “Marks” (stigmata) meant signs of ownership such as were branded on slaves and cattle.
- ✦ These scars demonstrated he was a slave of Christ and not just a people-pleaser - (Gal 1:6-17)

“The Actual ‘Israel’ of God” – 6:11–18

What About Us?



- **Our motivation?**
- **Our consistency?**
- **Our focus?**
- **Our standing?**
- **Have we found mercy & peace in Christ?**

Galatians 6:15-16 (NKJV)

¹⁵ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. ¹⁶ And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

GALATIANS

Charter of Freedom

Galatians 3:26–29 (NKJV)

²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

“The Actual ‘Israel’ of God” – 6:11–18

Final Warnings Concerning The Judaizers

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Prepared September 21,22, 2013

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Romans 2:25-29 (NKJV)

²⁵ For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. ²⁶ Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision? ²⁷ And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the law, judge you who, *even* with *your* written *code* and circumcision, *are* a transgressor of the law?

Romans 2:25-29 (NKJV)

²⁸ For he is not a Jew who *is one* outwardly, nor *is* circumcision that which *is* outward in the flesh; ²⁹

but *he is* a Jew who *is one* inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise *is* not from men but from God.