

There are a lot of **problems** in the world we're here to live in.

Many of them come **from problems** in the **fallen human heart**.

**Crimes** are committed every day.

- Hard working people have things they've worked for **stolen**.

- **Lives are snuffed out** for revenge, jealousy, and to cover up other crimes.

- **Children are aborted, abducted, and abused** to satisfy the twisted passions of deranged minds.

- **International aggression and hatred** bring victim nations to have to defend themselves in **war**.

When the **fallen heart** sees these things, it **tries to fix the outward results** without **dealing with the inward cause**.

**Crime** can't be eliminated by better police and prisons.

**Wars** won't be eliminated by negotiated agreements, technology, or superior weapons.

**None of these solutions treat the cause** of the problem.

There are **also non-moral problems** that are part of things God's permitted in this world.

When a **disease** attacks the body we need to **attack the germs, pathogens**.

They're the **organisms** that **cause our diseases**, the *origin* of sicknesses.

When someone's sick, it **won't help** to simply **make the patient comfortable**.

**Cosmetics** can make a **pale person** look healthy, but they don't fix what's making them pale.

**Pain** can be **dulled** with medication or by severing the nerves,

but that won't fix what's causing the pain to begin with.

**We need to attack the disease itself.**

The patient needs **good nutrition, rest**, and sometimes **medication**.

They can strengthen and help the **body's immune system** so it can **kill off the disease**.

Just **making the sick person feel better** only allows the **disease to advance**. **You have to go after the germs.**

The **same** is true about the **moral and spiritual problems** that infect our world.

**Jesus didn't come** just to **make us feel better** while we **linger in our sins**.

**He came to give us new life**, to make us into **new creatures**, alive forever in Him.

The **soul** doesn't need a new attitude, it **needs a new beginning**.

---

Paul begins this last section of Galatians with a comment about his writing of the words here.

Galatians 6:11. See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand.

Paul draws attention to the fact that he was **writing this with his own hand**.

**Either** he wrote this **whole letter** without his usual secretary, or **he just wrote this last section himself**.

He **points this out** so they would **understand his personal concern** for them,

and the **importance** of what he was now telling them.

The words translated "**what large letters**" is a big more difficult to understand.

There's a lot of **uncertainty** about exactly what Paul meant here.

Some say it means he wrote this last part of the letter with **larger characters for emphasis**.

Some think it means that he took over the writing from his helper here, and he had a **larger style of writing**.

Some say it means the **length and depth of the epistle** he was writing.

Some even suggest he had an **eye problem** going back to that reference in **4:15**.

There he said he had some "frailty" when he visited them.

He said, "**you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me**."

That was a common expression used then generally of dealing with serious problems they're dealing with.

There are **interesting evidences**, and **problems** in supporting each view.

We **don't have enough information in the text** to decide for sure, but **it doesn't effect the message**.

---

Then Paul gets back to the **main issue** he's dealing with in this letter.

12. It is those who want to make **a good showing in the flesh** who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.

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

14. But far be it from me to boast **except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

15. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but **a new creation**.

Paul's concern was the **influence of the Judaizers** who had come to Galatia.

They claimed to be *Christians* but were **holding** on to the **rituals of old Judaism**.

By **requiring all believers** to be **circumcised** and follow the **ceremonial laws**,

they were **denying the sufficiency of the finished work of Jesus Christ** as our Redeemer.

They **said** they were demanding this because of a **deep concern** for the **law of God**.

But that **wasn't the real reason** for their insisting on circumcision.

Paul said **they had fallen** into these beliefs **to avoid being persecuted** for confessing the work of Christ on the cross.

**Christians** were being **persecuted by the powerful Jewish leaders**.

They **hated** the idea that **God's Messiah** would come to **die to pay for sin**.

They came to believe that the **sacrifices of animals** and **other rituals** of the Temple actually removed sin.

That's *not* what **God's law** taught.

But the **lost deny the real problem**.

They **wanted some outward** solution they could **control themselves**.

They were **treating the spiritual disease outwardly** and **missing the real inward cause**.

They imagined **that fallen humans could do something** to turn away **God's wrath**.

They **rejected what God said** in his word about the *deadness* of the **fallen heart**.

**Man can't fix his own soul**. Their efforts were **misdirected**.

They were **trusting in dead souls** to **make themselves alive**.

**The law** if understood properly **pointed toward the coming Christ**, God in human form, who would **cure the disease**.

The **corrupted leaders of Judaism** rejected that, and **persecuted** those who believed it.

So the **Judaizers** claimed to believe in Jesus, but still **insisted** on the **old rituals**.

But those insisting on circumcision **weren't really keeping God's law**.

**Circumcision** was the **sign and seal** of the *old form* of **God's Covenant**.

It **obligated them by covenant** to the **whole of God's message** in the law.

Part of that message was that **they should expect a Messiah to come as promised**.

**He's** what the **sacrifices** and the words of the **Prophets** were all about.

God's law brought **warnings** to those who heard it

that they should **love mercy** and **walk humbly in all God's ways**.

But the Jewish leaders **didn't see the Messiah in the sacrifices** and **in the words of the prophets**.

They **didn't love mercy**, they were **cruel, exclusive, and domineering**. And they **weren't humble**.

Like the Pharisees, these **Judaizers** became **arrogant and proud**.

Their **motive** was to be able to **boast in the fleshly works of the Galatians**.

They wanted to **brag** about **how many followers** they attracted.

But they **missed the heart of the law**.

**They overlooked the real change** Christ alone would make, **replacing it with outward compliance to ceremony**.

In contrast, Paul could **only boast in the cross of Christ**

**It was by Christ** that Paul says **the world is crucified to Him, and He was crucified to the world**.

We have to remember that the word "*crucify*" had a **different meaning** then than it has now.

It was the ordinary way the **Romans** executed criminals. It had **no "religious" implications**.

Paul saw that these **outward Old Testament rituals** were now **put to death**.

**Paul** was considered **executed** to these rituals too.

**Jesus had been executed, crucified** on the cross, **in his place**.

We all need to **keep this relationship in mind** while we live out every moment of our lives.

Our Savior is our **only real hope and remedy** against the **disease** of our souls.

He's our only **boast**, our only **cure**, He alone is our **life and hope**.

The **cross of Jesus is offensive** to the world.

To the **superficially religious**, the Crucified Savior is **just a symbol of martyrdom**.

To the **corrupted Jewish leaders** at that time, Jesus was **a threat** to all they taught and believed.

The whole idea of an executed Messiah to fulfill the laws of Moses was horrible.

To the **Judaizers**, the cross if honored, **threatened persecution** from the Rabbinic Jews.

They **bragged** about **how many Christians** they got to follow them **back into Judaism**.

But to us who are **regenerated**, Jesus is our **Redeemer** who was **executed in our place**.

**Our boast is in that offensive Cross of Christ**. It's our hope and salvation.

The **days of circumcision** and all the old rituals were **gone**.

**Jesus fulfilled** all they represented and taught about.

Since the crucifixion of Christ, **God sees no distinction** between those ceremonially circumcised and those not.

**What matters is the change** the Redeemer makes **in the heart** to bring in **believers** from every **nationality**.

Paul says we are **new creatures** in Christ, a **new creation**.

In Christ we're **not as we would** be without him.

We become **new people** in the sense that **the old master is gone**, the **old priorities** are changed.

We still have the **same DNA**, **memories**, **talents**, favorite **foods**, and so on ...

But we have **new desires**, new **affections**, new **values**, and a restored **joy**.

All the **religions of the fallen soul** deny that an **inside change** is even **needed**.

They **reject** the biblical fact of our **depravity** that infected all of us in Eden.

They try to make **outward changes** to make things better.

But they only **dress up the corpse**. They put **makeup** on the pale skin.

They **sever the nerves** so we don't feel the pain while the **disease eats away** at its victims.

They make the lost **feel like they're doing good**, while they run toward the gates of Hell.

They **clean up the ghettos**, but ignore how they got that way to begin with.

They feel holy, special, and safe in their **superficial worship** services,

but fail to see the offense to God of their **self-centered self-serving hearts**.

Our **Loving Lord Jesus Christ** came to **change us inside**.

He replaces the **outward appearance** of charity with **true compassion**.

He replaces **outward rituals** and **shallow entertainment** with **humble worship**.

The dead soul is **made alive** to live for it's **Savior**.

He **doesn't just** make us **feel better**.

He **heals the disease** and **gives us life** where there was death.

He restores us to **real fellowship with God**.

Our **old affections and ways** aren't **changed** by **outward acts**, but by **inward transformation**.

Paul ends his letter to the Galatians with a clear **focus on the benefits of God's Covenant**.

16. And as for all who walk by this rule, **peace and mercy** be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

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

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

Today, we aren't tempted or lured back into **circumcision**.

It's **not Judaizers** that **threaten us** with **Jewish ritual ideas** about how we're made right with God.

But we **are surrounded** by those who try to lead God's people into a **superficial Christianity**.

We're influenced every day by the **secular beliefs and values** of a **lost world**.

The **complete sufficiency** of the **work of Jesus Christ** on the Cross is **our strength**.

It's what offers **real inward peace** for the troubled soul, and makes us **partakers of God's gracious mercy**.

God calls us to **live as those who are alive in Christ**.

We need to **avoid the superficial counterfeits** that only make things *look or feel* better.

We need to **replace them** with the ways that show our **trust in God's promises and provisions**.

**Peace and mercy** are **promised** to those who **walk by the Gospel promises**.

Paul **didn't compromise his beliefs** to avoid offending the legalists and avoid persecution.

He had **scars** on his body that **proved that he stayed faithful to the truth**, even when it wasn't convenient.

Do we at times **avoid talking about God's truth** just so we won't be **embarrassed**?

Do we try to **hide** our trust in the cross in certain situations?

Or to we **openly trust** what God says about the **power of the Risen Christ**?

Do we **count on him** to **enable us** to handle things **responsibly** and **in the right way**?

This is **how we ought to live**. It's what we **ought to do**.

Then Paul pronounced God's grace upon the Galatians and all of us who read his letter.

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

**He doesn't** just wish us some **outward** benefits, **but** the **best comfort and peace deep in the soul,**

He turns us to the *source* of right thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions.

We have the **only remedy** that **kills the spiritual germs. It doesn't just cover up the symptoms.**

**It deals with** the **sin** that *causes* our spiritual struggles, and **gives life to otherwise dead hearts.**

The Bible quotations in this article are from the English Standard Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

ESV

Galatians 6:11-18

11. See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand.

12. It is those who want to make **a good showing in the flesh** who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.

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

14. But far be it from me to boast **in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,** by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

15. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but **a new creation.**

16. And as for all who walk by this rule, **peace and mercy** be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

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

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

Galatians 6:11-18

11. Ἴδετε πηλίκους ὑμῖν γράμμασιν ἔγραψα τῇ ἐμῇ χειρὶ.

12. ὅσοι θέλουσιν εὐπροσωπῆσαι ἐν σαρκί, οὗτοι ἀναγκάζουσιν ὑμᾶς περιτέμεσθαι, μόνον ἵνα μὴ τῷ σταυρῷ τοῦ Χριστοῦ διώκωνται.

13. οὐδὲ γὰρ οἱ περιτεμνόμενοι αὐτοὶ νόμον φυλάσσουσιν· ἀλλὰ θέλουσιν ὑμᾶς περιτέμεσθαι, ἵνα ἐν τῇ ὑμετέρα σαρκὶ καυχῶνται.

14. ἐμοὶ δὲ μὴ γένοιτο καυχᾶσθαι εἰ μὴ ἐν τῷ σταυρῷ τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, δι' οὗ ἐμοὶ κόσμος ἐσταύρωται καὶ γὰρ τῷ κόσμῳ.

15. ἐν γὰρ Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ οὔτε περιτομὴ τί ἰσχύει οὔτε ἀκροβυστία, ἀλλὰ καινὴ κτίσις.

16. καὶ ὅσοι τῷ κανόνι τούτῳ στοιχίσουσιν, εἰρήνη ἐπ' αὐτοὺς καὶ ἔλεος, καὶ ἐπὶ τὸν Ἰσραὴλ τοῦ Θεοῦ.

17. Τοῦ λοιποῦ κόπους μοι μηδεὶς παρεχέτω· ἐγὼ γὰρ τὰ στίγματα τοῦ Κυρίου Ἰησοῦ ἐν τῷ σώματί μου βαστάζω.

18. Ἡ χάρις τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματος ὑμῶν, ἀδελφοί· ἀμήν.

Galatians 6:11-18 **A New Creation**

Jesus didn't come to make us feel better while we linger in our sins. He came to give us new life, to make us into new creatures, alive forever in him. The soul doesn't need a new attitude, it needs a new beginning.