

Galatians 6:9-18

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

1 ⁹ Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due
 2 time we will reap if we do not grow weary. ¹⁰ So
 3 then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to
 4 all people, and especially to those who are of the
 5 household of the faith.

6 ¹¹ See with what large letters I am writing to you
 7 with my own hand. ¹² Those who desire to make a
 8 good showing in the flesh try to compel you to be
 9 circumcised, simply so that they will not be
 10 persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ For those
 11 who are circumcised do not even keep the Law
 12 themselves, but they desire to have you
 13 circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh.
 14 ¹⁴ But may it never be that I would boast, except
 15 in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through
 16 which the world has been crucified to me, and I to
 17 the world. ¹⁵ For neither is circumcision anything,
 18 nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. ¹⁶ And
 19 those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy
 20 be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

21 ¹⁷ From now on let no one cause trouble for me,
 22 for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus.
 23 ¹⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your
 24 spirit, brethren. Amen.

Observation (What does it say?):

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

This is Paul's closing to his letter to the Galatian churches.

- What themes does he mention from earlier in the letter?
- What new ideas or emphases does he include as he ends the letter?
- How does the "tone" or the "feel" of this closing compare to his earlier statements to the Galatian Christians?
- What other observations do you notice?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- What parts seem clear and straightforward?
- What parts seem unclear or confusing?
- What motives does Paul ascribe to the "troublemakers" that have stirred up the church?
- What does it mean to "boast in the cross"?
- What does he mean about the world "crucified to me" and "I to the world"?
- If circumcision is so unimportant (v. 15), why did he spend the first four chapters exhorting them not to be circumcised?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- What effect has our four months studying Galatians had on you?
- How might God want to use the message(s) of Galatians to change you?

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)