



ONLY IN THE CROSS—Living the Gospel Galatians 6:11-18

This is it. This is our very last study in the book of Galatians. Ted presented a great sermon to close out the series. He reiterated the themes Paul discussed throughout the letter and challenged us to evaluate our lives in light of the gospel. Take a few moments at the beginning of your group to share how your lives have been impacted by what we have learned from this amazing epistle. Think of this final study as a summation of everything we have learned and discussed so far. Ensure everyone walks away from the group with at least one specific application gleaned from the book of Galatians. There are many to choose from. Let's begin.

Getting Started

In Sunday's sermon, Ted commented that the Law and rules for living are attractive for many of us. He was getting at the idea of how appealing and how much easier it can be when we don't have to think about everything, evaluate our actions, or make decisions about exactly what we should or shouldn't do. While it is true that boundaries are important and provide parameters for how we are to live our lives, it is important to be aware of the dangers we can face if we are overly reliant upon them.

- How do you find comfort or security from Law or rules? Why do you think they are appealing to so many of us?
- What is the balance between healthy and unhealthy rules? What areas of your life do you struggle in this regard?

Read the entire passage out loud from various translations before beginning your discussion.

Paul personally communicates the reality that we have two options. v. 11

1. We can rely upon self to provide our confidence. vv. 12-13
This choice is characterized by . . .
 - avoiding pain and opposition.
 - denial about what's really going on.
 - craving the praise of others.
2. We can rest in the cross as our confidence in all things. vv. 14-15
This choice is characterized by . . .
 - knowing we are no longer controlled by sin.
 - refusing to be defined by outward things.
 - living in a relationship with God.

- Which of these two options do you gravitate towards? Which motives of the former have the most pull on you?
- How successful are you at living in light of the 2nd option? Are we saints who sin or sinners who will be saints?

Application

If we rest in the cross, we experience freedom . . . v. 16-18

- the freedom to be empty.
- the freedom to be wrong.
- the freedom to be crushed.

- What does it mean to be empty? Wrong? Crushed? Why are these "freedoms" frightening for some of us?
- What risks do we face when we rest in the cross? Compare resting in the cross with trusting in anything else.

Challenge

Take a few minutes to come up with a specific point of application from the sermon. Next, discuss your answers to the following questions and decide how to go about making applications.

Reflection Questions . . .

- Do I boast in anything but the cross?
- In what ways do I need to embrace freedom? Be specific.

Prayer

Pray for the staff and leadership of the church. Thank God for His continual provisions for TCBC. Thank Him for bringing each person to our church. Ask Him to bring us all together in a true sense of the body. Praise Father for calling us to Himself, giving His Son to us, and adopting us as His children. Thank Him for loving us no matter what we do or don't do.