

We no longer need to be bound to the law or to our sinful nature because we are new creations set free by the cross of Jesus. And our identity should be firmly fixed in knowing and becoming one with him.

**“Boast Only on Jesus”**  
*Galatians- week #13*

**WRAP-UP**

We have been set free to live free through Jesus’ death and resurrection. We don’t have to find our identity in obeying the law, but as new creations in Christ we live to please the Spirit. We do that when we follow God’s leading in our lives and take the opportunities he gives us to do good. And when we “sow” into our lives in this way, we reap eternal life and blessings. It is at the cross that we can join with Paul to say, in this alone I will boast.

**Memory Verse**

*As for me, may I never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.*  
*- Galatians 6:14a NLT*

**PRAYER (20 MIN)**

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more space)

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*Challenge- Have your Spiritual Antennae up looking for opportunities to do good this week.*

**INTRODUCTION**

This summer we have been journeying with Paul through the book of Galatians. In this our final study Paul concludes his letter by advising us on our personal responsibility, warning us and reminding us that our cause for rejoicing and boasting is in the cross of Christ alone. It is not really important whether you are circumcised or not circumcised, what matters I that you are a new creation in Jesus.

**Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)**

What is the best advice your parents ever gave you?

**STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)**

**1. Personal Responsibility**

*Galatians 6:4-5 NLT - 4 Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. 5 For we are each responsible for our own conduct.*

As we follow Paul’s concluding thoughts he is encouraging the Galatians to find satisfaction in what they have done, apart from comparisons with others. We are seriously to examine how we are responding to God, not if we are doing better or worse than others. Look at Paul’s statement in 2 Cor 1:12.

*2 Corinthians 1:12 NLT - 12 We can say with confidence and a clear conscience that we have lived with a God-given holiness and sincerity in all our dealings. We have depended on God's grace, not on our own human wisdom. That is how we have conducted ourselves before the world, and especially toward you.*

The older we grow the more we realize that life really is short, and our time here is precious. We decide daily if we spend it pursuing our personal passions or God’s will for our lives.

Looking forward for the next several years, what is one area you believe God would like to use you to do His will? Even if you are not certain about it yet, consider your relationships, your resources, your gifts and talents that might be used to do this. What can you do that will bring you the kind of satisfaction that Paul expressed in 2 Corinthians 1:12?

## 2. Paul's Warning

*Galatians 6:6-8 NLT - 6 Those who are taught the word of God should provide for their teachers, sharing all good things with them. 7 Don't be misled--you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. 8 Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.*

Paul has devoted the majority of his letter to exposing false teaching. Conversely here he recognizes the importance of those who teach the word of God. Contrasting good teachers with false ones leads us to a universal truth – you will reap what you sow. Do you remember the battle in us between the sinful nature and the spiritual? The one we feed is the one that produces a harvest. What does Paul call the harvest of the sinful nature? Because God is just, we know what to expect based on what we do. Describe the harvests that you've seen resulting from sins like, gossip, infidelity, greed?

To harvest everlasting life Paul tell us to live to please the Spirit. What would you include in some of the things we do that are pleasing to the Spirit?

*Galatians 6:9-10 NLT - 9 So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. 10 Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone--especially to those in the family of faith.*

Thank you, Paul, for giving us the very practical application of this truth. There is a gap between sowing and reaping. Doing good to everyone is pleasing to the Spirit and will return a harvest of eternal life. But our harvest is not always immediate, so Paul is preparing us for this. Have you been involved in an area of ministry for a long duration? What was it and how long was your involvement? What was it that kept you faithful?

Sometimes our investments are not seen in our lifetime. Have you supported children in need? The harvest of your investment may not be realized until they are adults. What are some opportunities we might have to do good to the family of God both locally and more widely?

## 3. Boasting in Christ

*Galatians 6:14-16 NLT - 14 As for me, may I never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of that cross, my interest in this world has been crucified, and the world's interest in me has also died. 15 It doesn't matter whether we have been circumcised or not. What counts is whether we have been transformed into a new creation. 16 May God's peace and mercy be upon all who live by this principle; they are the new people of God.*

Paul concludes by saying he boasts only in the cross of Christ. We typically think of “boasting” as bragging. By definition this word means the thing we have a reason to glory or rejoice in. If the cross is your boast, how does that affect your willingness to fight in “spiritual battles”? How does it affect your identity?

Did you notice what Paul said in verse 15? He didn't just say circumcision didn't matter. He also said not being circumcised doesn't matter. Based on the time he spent arguing this point to the Galatians, this could be surprising. But what does he emphasize is important in verse 15? Paul brings us back to the only thing that has value, our transformation into a new creation through Jesus. We see this over and over in scripture. Read how Paul said it in Philippians 3:8-10.

*Philippians 3:8-10 NLT - 8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ 9 and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death,*