



DECEMBER 8, 2024

MARKED BY THE MASTER

Pastor Roger Poupart // Galatians 6:11-18

PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.

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11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. 12 Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh try to compel you to be circumcised, simply so that they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. 13 For those who are circumcised do not even keep the Law themselves, but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh. 14 But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. 16 And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. 17 From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus. 18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.



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REFLECT/CONNECT

Use these questions for a time of individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

- What things come to mind when you reflect on Christmas?
- Describe a meaningful letter or note someone personally wrote to you. What made it meaningful?

These questions are designed as a guide for individual study and to foster spiritual conversation with a group of people.

GROW IN THE WORD

- 01. Paul emphasized that he wrote this section of his letter to the Galatians with his own hand. He criticized those who persuaded believers to be circumcised, reasoning that they only did so to avoid persecution for the cross. He reiterated that even they did not keep the Law themselves but only wanted to boast about their influence (v. 11-13).**
 - Why do you think Paul highlighted that he wrote "with large letters" in his "own hand" in verse 11? What does that emphasize about his message?

GROW IN THE WORD

- Based on these verses, how would you describe the motives of those insisting on circumcision for believers? See also Matthew 23:5-7; Romans 2:28-29.

- What are some modern examples of people prioritizing external appearances or works over true faith in Christ? How can you avoid falling into this trap?

02. Paul declared that his only boast was in Jesus, through whom he has died to the world. He reiterated that neither circumcision nor uncircumcision mattered, but becoming a new creation was most important. He concluded the letter with a blessing of peace and mercy for those who followed his instruction and reflected on his own sufferings for Jesus (v. 14-18).

- What did Paul mean when he wrote about being a "new creation", and why is it more important than external religious practices? Consider 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:20-24.

GROW IN THE WORD

- How would you describe what it means to "boast in the flesh" and "boast in the cross"? What are the differences?
- How can you keep your focus on Christ and his work rather than your own achievements or religious practices?

UPCOMING EVENTS

RE|ENGAGE MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

January 12 - May 4 | Sundays | 9:05 am

Whether your marriage is good and you want it to be great, or you are at rock bottom and wonder if there is hope. Each week, you will hear from couples whose marriages have been transformed, learn practical ways to grow in oneness with your spouse, and gain insight from others in a small group setting. Learn more online and register online!

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

January 5 - March 2 | Sundays | 9:15 am

Join us as we learn how to change our financial situation through the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace program. This nine-week class has biblical, practical steps to gaining freedom from debt, stress, and worry. The cost is \$99 for the license kit, and only one kit is needed per individual/couple. Scholarships are available - learn more and register online today!