

Final Word

3-25-18

As we close out the book of Galatians, hear Paul's Final Words:

Galatians 6:14 (ESV)

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

Even with all we have learned in Galatians, boasting is inconceivable except that of “the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ”. The cross speaks of the atonement, which was necessitated by man’s sin. Finally, the pronoun “our” speaks of the personal aspects of Christ’s redemption, for it becomes “ours” through the response of faith. Therefore we boast in the cross of “our” Christ.

Question? Is Christ the first thing we boast about? After the Philadelphia Eagles’ victory over the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl, a commentator asked Zach Ertz, Tight End for the Philadelphia Eagles, if this was the greatest event in his life. Zach Ertz said, “No it is not.” The greatest event in my life was when I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. **Christ is the Final Word!**

By receiving Christ, Christ transforms us and flows through our life.

Galatians 6:15 (ESV)

For neither (following the rules) counts for anything, nor (not following the rules), but a new creation.

When someone is destroying their life in destructive behavior; we don't say, "You need to follow the rules." **We say, "You need Jesus/be a new creation."**

As believers in Christ, new creations, we will receive peace and mercy from God Himself.

Galatians 6:16 (NIV)

Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to the **Israel of God**.

We follow this rule! This is the rule based on verse 14 and 15, #1 boast in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and #2 live as a new creation! If we look at the whole book this certainly means #1 not trading Grace for the Law and #2 not neglecting the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

The people who boast in the "cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" and "live as "new creations" are called the "Israel of God"! This ties everything back to the OT, the true Israel, those who trusted God and obeyed HIM looking for the coming Messiah. In the NT we have the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ! The Final Word! **We as new creations will have the visible markings of Christ; the stigma of Christ.**

Galatians 6:17 (ESV)

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

Paul says, “stop all this other nonsense, “ I have the Marks, which means the stigma, which means the evidence of Christ in my body. **The Greek for the phrase marks of Jesus is “*stigmata* of Jesus.”** In the original the reference to the marks, stigma, often refer to marks which masters had branded upon their slaves but also including scars, wounds, which they would have been endured. **Just as the “marks” (stigmata) of a slave revealed his ownership to his master, Paul says these marks revealed his relationship to Christ.** The stigmata of Jesus are the proofs, that we are devoted servants of Jesus.

Now as one bearing the stigma of Christ, a Final Word; Christ’s own power and favor will empower your human spirit.

Galatians 6:18 (ESV)

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

Notice the double empowerment: Along with the activity of the person of the Holy Spirit in us, the grace, divine influence of Christ, is also on our human spirit.

This Final Word is to brothers and sisters. The word brethren is used **meaning children of the same parents.** As believers in Christ, we are children of God, we are brothers and sisters in Christ.

How do we become related? How do we become part of the family of God? We trust in the Lord Jesus Christ!

2Cor.5:21 (NIV)

God made HIM who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in HIM we might become the righteousness of God.

Prophetic Team

Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.