

LARGE LETTERS ON LEGALISM

GALATIANS 6:11-13

I. LEGALISM IS THE PRACTICE OF THE MAJORITY OF RELIGIOUS PEOPLE IN THE WORLD TODAY

II. PAUL USES ONE ANCIENT EXAMPLE AS A PARADIGM FOR ALL TIME, TO DEMONSTRATE THE ESSENCE OF LEGALISM

A. The Origin Of Circumcision (Genesis 17)

1. An Incident In The Life Of Abraham When God Appeared To Him To Reconfirm His Eternal, Unilateral Covenant
2. Though The Covenant Was Unconditional, God Demanded That Every Male Bear In His Body A Sign Of That Covenant
3. Covenant Jews Imposed Circumcision On Gentile Proselytes

B. Judaizers Were Telling Gentiles Whom Paul Had Won To Christ That Unless They Were Circumcised They Could Neither Be Saved Nor Stay Saved

1. Galatians Was Written To Correct This Grievous Heresy
2. The Issue Is A Matter Of Adding An Additional Requirement To Faith In Christ

III. PAUL INFORMS US OF THE DEEPEST THINGS [MOTIVATIONS] BEHIND THE WHOLE DIABOLICAL MESS (6:12-13)

A. The Desire To Present An Appearance Of Being God Fearing (6:12a)

B. The Desire To Escape The Inevitable Persecution Associated With The Real Gospel: Acceptance Is Better Than Rejection (6:12b)

C. The Desire To Gain Recruits To The Cause For Bragging Rights Which Supposedly Add To Your Own Standing Before God (6:13)