

Trinity Lutheran Church

Norman, Oklahoma – www.tlcnorman.org

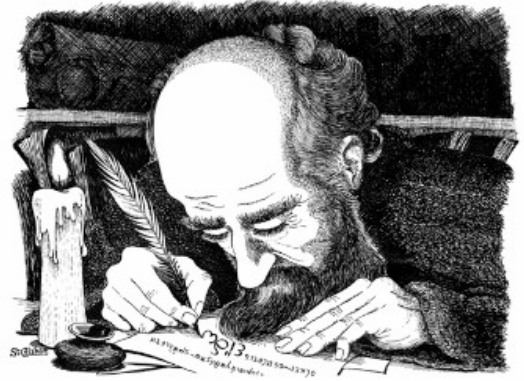
The Book of Galatians

Theme: “The True Gospel You Have Received”

Date: 11-27-22

Lesson: 34 – Chapter 6:11-18

TEXT AND STUDY



(11) See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand.

(Acts 9:1-20; Rom 16:22; 1 Cor 16:21-23; 12:1-10; Col 4:18; 2 Thess 3:17,18; Philemon 1:19-25)

Notes:

Up to this point, the letter had been dictated to his professional scribe or amanuensis named Tertius, and was written in that man's better handwriting. It was a common practice for officials to dictate their letters to their professional scribes. Paul may have had poor eyesight, plus inferior penmanship. He worked as a tentmaker, which was tough on one's hands. He worked with thick canvas sails, large needles and also coarse fabric and ropes for tents. From this point on in the letter (in the original manuscript)

the reader would see a completely different and much larger script.

His handwriting also would serve as a type of official signature, indicating his genuine authorship.

Saul's / Paul's thorn in the flesh:

One possibility is that ever since his conversion on the road to Damascus, where he was temporarily blinded, he never fully regained his good eyesight. This would have been a real difficulty in his missionary travels.

He prayed for the Lord to remove it, but God did not do so.

He was teaching Paul that God's strength was made perfect through his weakness.

This is an important lesson and reminder for all of us as well!

As an aside, consider how blessed we are today. So many of us have poor eyesight and are fortunate to have it corrected with eyeglasses, contacts or eye surgery.

How much more enjoyable and useful our lives are, with this gift of clear eyesight.

(12) It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for **the cross of Christ**.

(13) For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.

(Mt 23:25,26; Ac 15:1,10; Rom 2:25; 2 Cor 11:13; Php 3:3,18; Titus 1:10,11)

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

(15) For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

(Prov 29:27; Is 65:17; Jer 9:25; Mt 12:50; Jn 3:5-7; 15:14; Rom 2:28; 6:2-6; 7:15-20; 8:19-22;

1 Cor 1:18,31; 2:2; 7:19; 2 Cor 5:17; Php 3:3,7,8; Jas 4:4; 1 Jn 2:15)

(16) And as for all who walk by this rule, **peace and mercy** be upon them,
and upon the Israel of God.

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

(Ps 125:5; 128:6; Is 44:5; Rom 2:29; 4:12; 9:6-8; 1 Cor 10:18; Php 3:3)

Note: “the New Israel” = the Christian Church made up of Jews and Gentiles. It is not a reference to the modern state of Israel. The confusion among Christians on that issue has brought endless dispensational theories and endtimes’ speculation through millennialism. We reject all of that as false teaching which completely obscures the proper proclamation of the Law and the Gospel – justification by grace through faith.

The marks of Jesus on Paul:

In the ancient world, slaves were branded on their skin to mark to whom they belonged and identified who was their master. Paul was indeed marked as a slave of Jesus:

Stoning (**Ac 14:19**); beatings (**Ac 16:22; 2 Cor 11:23-25**); illness (**2 Cor 1:5; 12:7; Gal 4:13,14**);

servant of Christ (**2 Cor 4:8-10; Php 3:10**)

The Roman Catholic superstitious and pietistic description of these marks is called “the stigmata.” This meant that special holy saints miraculously had appear the same “marks” that were on Jesus, meaning nails scars on their hands and feet. This was then a sign of the holiness of that person, who could become an intercessor for a believer. This is nowhere taught in Scripture. Lutherans reject these manmade means of grace in relics and holy bones as having salvific power. The only true means of grace flow from the certain Word of God in preaching, teaching, baptism, absolution and holy communion.

(18) **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ** be with your spirit, brothers.
Amen.

A shortened form of the apostolic benediction
(**Rom 16:20; Php 4:23; 2 Tim 4:22; Phm 25**)

Luther’s Commentary – Vol. 27

“But the apostle, being instructed in **the Spirit**, knows that a man who does not preach or understand **Christ** aright cannot be without fear of the cross and without vainglory. He who does not have **the spirit of Christ** inevitably loves his own life more than he loves **Christ**. Then it is just as inevitable that he is puffed up with pride over his knowledge. Thus he is bound to collapse under adversity and to become haughty in prosperity, since he is unable in either case to conduct himself as one who is upright and stable.

Therefore we can, without risk, generalize and pronounce this verdict about one and all if we see that they do not know **Christ**, namely, that they are fearful in adversity and vainglorious in prosperity, downcast and elated alike at the wrong time. On the other hand, **one who is really a Christian** is uplifted in adversity, because he trusts in **God**; he is downcast in prosperity, because he **fears God**. He is not disheartened when he is suffering, nor does he become vainglorious when he is being honored. He is upright and stable everywhere.”

LIFE APPLICATION

How will we be persecuted for **the cross of Christ**?