

6:11-18

GALATIANS

THE GOSPEL OF CHRISTIAN FREEDOM

Boasting in Christ

The American dream is all about this life!

The American dream is all about this life!

“Nickels & Noses”

“Happiness & Wholeness”

“Health & Wealth”

When the Kingdom supplants the King liberals confuse the Good News with the “secular utopia” -

- where Jesus is a poster-boy for a political agenda.

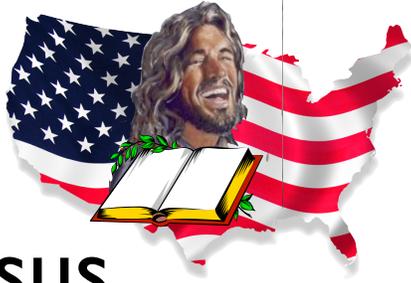
When the Kingdom supplants the King conservatives confuse the Good News with the “good life.”

- where Jesus is a water-boy for a personal agenda.

Both sides share more in common than they think

- They both are attracted to the Kingdom.
- They both put their hope in this life.
- They both see American culture as key.
- They both see Jesus as a “means.”

**Our culture loves Jesus
as a means
to the good
life not as
the ends of
that life.**



Jesus

“Chaplain of the American dream”

Galatians 6

“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 that they may 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, that they may boast in your flesh. ¹⁴ But may it never be that I should 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.”

***At the end of the day there are two
teachers standing before the Galatians.***

JUDAIZERS

**Boasting in the flesh.
vs. 13**

**Enslaved to the opinion
of the world.
vs. 12**

**Giving in to the culture
to avoid persecution.
vs. 12**

Paul

**Boasting in the Cross.
vs. 14**

**Crucified to the world.
vs. 14**

**Bearing the brand-
marks of Jesus.
vs. 17**

“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 that they may 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, that they may boast in your flesh.”

***There are many who try to find their
security in the opinion of others.***

A key to spiritual **peace & power
is being free from needing
the world's security.**

***Signs that I am finding my security
in man not God?***

- 1. I work hard to protect my **image**.**
- 2. I **associate** with powerful & “successful people in the world because I want to be one of them.**
- 3. I want to be very careful how I identify with Christ not because I want to win others but so as to not be **rejected** by them.**
- 4. I am **fearful** that I or my children might miss out on all the world has for us because of the poor economy and cultural depravity.**
- 5. I crave the **affirmation** of others and am depressed when I don't get it.**

“¹⁴ But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

***Our security can not rest in what we
have done or what others think of us.***

Romans 12

“¹ I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”



Take your baptism seriously because God does.

How can I know that I have died to this world's values and agenda?

1. I cannot be bribed by the **enticement** of fame or fortune.
2. I sleep well and awake with energy even when **circumstances** are not going my way.
3. I can easily forgive, forbear, and forget **personal offenses** by others.
4. I do not **measure** my success by what I have accomplished but rather by my faithfulness.
5. I am energized by the **privilege** of serving Christ.
6. I am **not afraid** of the economic downturn or the moral failures of our culture but see them as opportunities for witness.

“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.”

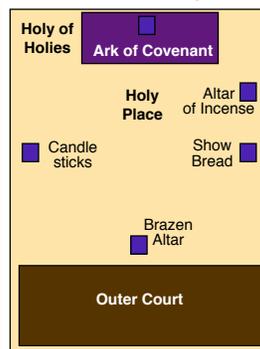
Two great temptations facing the American church today

2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; and old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”

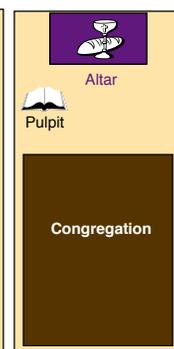
1. There was and is pressure to **commingle** the Kingdom of God and the world's cultures.
2. There was and is pressure to **commingle** the two covenants.

Jewish Temple



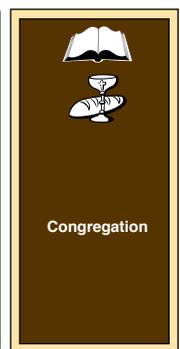
Priestly class

Old Covenant



Clergy class

New Covenant



Body life

Is the church the new spiritual Israel?

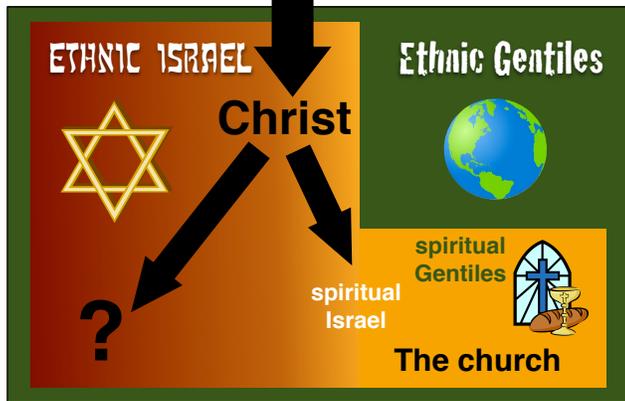
1. The **New Covenant** was given to the nation Israel in **Jer.31** but then applied to the church in the N.T. **Heb.8**.
2. Texts that speak of **promises** made to ethnic Israel are applied to Christ and the church in the N.T.
3. Only **Gal.6:16** is cited as a reference to Israel as the church. “¹⁶ . . . upon them, and upon the Israel of God.” suggests a distinction.
4. This view (the church as Israel) was not known until 160 AD.
5. All the other **65 occurrences** of the term “Israel” in the N.T. refer to ethnic Jews.

The Christian church is split down the middle on this issue today.

Three other N.T. texts are sometimes cited in support of the church as the new Israel.

1. **Rom.9:6** “. . . For they are not all Israel who are from Israel;” **suggests a distinction between ethnic and Spiritual Israel.**
2. **1 Cor.10:18** “look at Israel according to the flesh; are not those who eat the sacrifices sharers in the altar?” **suggests there may be an “Israel according to the Spirit.”**
3. **Rom.11:26-29** “and so all Israel shall be saved;” “²⁸ From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; ²⁹ for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.” **suggests there is yet a plan for ethnic Israel.**

Abrahamic promises



“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.”

Let's put an end to this debate and punctuate the experience with the grace of God and the Cross of Christ.

1. The word “brand-marks” is “**stigmata**” in Greek and is linked to Paul's bearing his cross as a follower of Christ.
2. Paul ends his letter as he started it - with a salute to God's grace in Christ.

“Grace to you and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

“The grace of
our Lord Jesus Christ
be with your spirit, brethren.”