

Gal. 6:16-18

- I. Conditional blessing: Peace wish or warning (16-17)
 - A. Pos: Peace and mercy to all who agree with Paul on this issue (16)
 - 1. If: As many as hold to this standard (16a)
 - cf. 5:25 – same verb “keep in step with”
 - “Those who keep in step with the Spirit also keep in step with the new creation” Schriener p. 380
 - 2. Then: Peace and mercy be to them and to the Israel of God (16b)
 - i.e. the true people of God (defined earlier as Abraham’s spiritual descendants through Abraham’s faith)
 - B. Neg: Final warning to all who disagree with Paul on this issue (17)
 - 1. Finally, let no one cause me distress (17a)
 - 2. Reason: For I bear the marks of Jesus on my body (17b)
 - Not some spiritual/miraculous marks
 - But physical wounds as a result of suffering for the cross
 - Because Paul did not deny the cross to avoid persecution like the opponents
 - Just as Paul continues Jesus’ servant work (cf. 1:15), he also continues Jesus’ suffering (cf. Col. 1, Phil 1, 2 Cor. Etc.)
- II. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers, amen (18)
 - Typical grace wish