



## NEW LIFE, NOT CIRCUMCISION

(Galatians 6:11-16)

### THE JUDAIZER'S MOTIVES (12-13)

- false teachers were compelling the Galatians to keep OT Law (e.g., circumcision) in order to achieve holiness (*Gal 1:6;3:1*)
- their motives were selfish and worldly...
  - to obtain followers, power and prestige
  - to gain acceptance by other Jews (avoiding persecution that accompanies a profession of faith in Christ only)
- these men were not truly spiritual; they were preoccupied with external religious rites that were of no value to God
- professing to keep the Law, they fell short of it (*Rom 3:23*)

### CRUCIFIED MOTIVES (14)

- Paul sought to glorify Christ, not himself (*Php 3:1-7*)...
  - he wanted the Galatians to follow Christ, not him
  - he only boasted of what Christ had done for (in and through) them
- his desire for the trophies of this world was crucified (*Gal 2:20; 1 Jn 2:15*)
- the world had no use for Him, like Christ (*Jn 1:11;15:18-20*)

### A NEW RULE TO LIVE BY (15-16)

- whether a man is circumcised or not is unimportant
- what really matters is a new life found only through faith in Christ (*2 Cor 5:17; Col 2:20-3:3*)
- Christians are to be ruled (led) by the Holy Spirit (*Gal 5:16,18; Rom 7:6*) – to do so is to “walk in newness of life” (*Rom 6:4*)
- those that live according to this principle experience the peace and mercy of God, both circumcised and uncircumcised

## APPLICATION

1. What underlying motives and desires guide you?
2. Do you pursue acceptance and friendship with those who are not Christians (e.g., at school/work)?
3. Do you like to be part of (or even lead) groups of people that are pursuing a culturally popular cause?
4. Do you fear being ridiculed and isolated if it becomes known that you are a Christian?
5. What do you desire in life more than anything else?
6. What are you pursuing this week (month)?
7. Are you “self-confident”?
8. What rules govern the way you live your life?