

Galatians 5-6

5:1–12 - Judgment for Those Who Turn from the Gospel.

Those who turn to the law for salvation will cut themselves off from salvation. Hence Paul warns and encourages his readers not to defect.

5:13–25 - Life in the Spirit and Love.

Freedom from the law does not mean that Christians can do whatever pleases the flesh. Believers by the power of the Spirit, live a new life characterized by love. Serving one another in love fulfills the law.

5:16–26 - The Desires of the Flesh vs. the Fruit of the Spirit.

Life under the law expresses itself in the works of the flesh, but those who live by the Spirit bear fruit pleasing to God.

6:1–10 - A Christian Life of Concrete Love.

Paul illustrates what he means by the life of love in the Spirit, which he described in more general terms in the previous section.

6:11–18 - Final Warning.

Paul summarizes the main themes of the letter and challenges the reader to stay true to the gospel. To require circumcision is to deny the cross and the dawning of the new creation. Those who belong to the new creation comprise the true Israel.

v.14 - Paul is saying that the entire world system in all its glory, but in opposition to God, is dead or destroyed in its power to attract him; it has no influence or power over Paul, no appeal to him. “*And I to the world*”: Paul is (similarly) dead to the desires and attractions of the world, for he serves Christ as his new master.

v.16 – “*Israel of God*” - That is, in contrast to the children of the “present Jerusalem” (4:25), the true people of God are the *believing* children of Abraham (3:7, 29), who belong to “Jerusalem above” (4:26–27).