

## Sermon Series: *The Letter of Paul to the Galatians*

### What Counts Is A New Creation!

#### Galatians 6:11-18 (ESV)

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

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.

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.

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.

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

#### Introduction

“They won’t think anything about it.”<sup>1</sup> Those are reportedly the final words spoken by Abraham Lincoln. He was conversing with his wife Mary about his plans after his term in office expired. He was telling her that he wanted to travel to Jerusalem and walk in the footsteps of his Savior. He told her there was “no city he so much desired to see.” Evidently Lincoln then took her hand. Mary asked him what all the patrons of Ford’s Theater would think if they saw the two of them holding hands. He replied, “They won’t think anything about it,” and then he was shot in the head and his respectable life ended. Lincoln had no idea that those words would be his final words.

Today we read the final words of Paul in his letter to the Galatians. Paul had the luxury of thinking deeply about how to conclude this letter. He knew exactly what he wanted to say and he said it. Paul has poured his heart out for the Galatians in this letter.

Galatians is unique among all of Paul’s epistles. The form is unique and the language is unique. Paul uses language against these false teachers who came in after he left that is stronger and more graphic than any other language he uses in any other letter.

The situation in Galatia was so burdensome for Paul that he did not include any initial greeting which he does in every other of his others letters that we have. He does not do that in this letter. He jumps right into the issue. Why does he not? Because *life and death* were on the line. *Heaven and hell* were at stake. The means of salvation was in danger of being obscured. They were in danger of forsaking the gospel of Jesus Christ. They were in danger of turning away from the **only** God ordained means of salvation.

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<sup>1</sup> Barnaby Conrad, *Famous Last Words* (1961). See [http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Last\\_words](http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Last_words) accessed 20 Mar 2011.

### **Galatians 1:6 (ESV)**

6 *I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—*

7 *not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.*

8 *But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.*

9 *As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.*

### **For Paul, This Is Deeply Personal**

This is deeply personal for Paul. He had *labored* among them to demonstrate and teach the gospel. He had *lived* among them and preached Jesus to them and they believed and received the message Paul had preached. And now, he hears that they were turning away from the gospel in order to embrace legalistic Judaism???. They were turning away from the gift of grace in order to attempt to live by human effort???. They were turning away from the righteousness of Christ in order to establish their own???.<sup>2</sup> Paul could not believe his ears so he sat down and wrote this letter in order that it would be abundantly clear how sinful human souls can experience the holy relationship with God for which they were created.

### **What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

This is the point of whole letter. Paul's purpose in writing this letter was to answer the question, "What must I do to be saved?" We have spent 7 months in this letter. We have preached 24 sermons from this book. This question is *that* important. We did not have to spend this much time in this book, but we did. Now, as we approach these final words in this letter, Paul will summarize the issue and restate what should by now be crystal clear—*salvation comes only by faith that rests only in Jesus.*

And in verse 11 he writes...

### **Large Letters?**

#### **Galatians 6:11 (ESV)**

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

The first question that arises is "What does Paul mean by 'large letters?'" Does he, as Luther and Calvin understood, mean that the the length of the letter was "large" or long? That does not seem to fit since "letters" is plural and Paul is only writing one missive. It does not say, "See what a large letter I am writing," but it reads, "See with what large *letters* (plural) I am writing..." It seems more natural to understand this to mean that Paul is referring to the physical size of the characters in the script.

### **Why Write In Large Letters?**

The next question is why would he write in "large letters?" It was Paul's custom to use a secretary, called an amanuensis, to assist him in writing his letters. Paul dictated the letter to the Romans to Tertius (Rom 16:22). He also used several of his other companions as scribes; Sosthenes, Timothy,

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<sup>2</sup> See Romans 10:3.

and Silvanus. “These were educated men, but not professional scribes. Therefore their writing would be that of the educated amateur.”<sup>3</sup>

It was also Paul’s custom to write the conclusion of every letter. This was Paul’s way of authenticating the letter (i.e. that it was truly from him, see 2 Cor 16:21; Col 4:18) and foiling forgeries. In **2 Thes 2:2** we learn that someone had written to them in Paul’s name telling them that the end of the world had already come. Paul wrote to them to clarify that this was not true. At the end of the letter he wrote,

### **2 Thessalonians 3:17** (ESV)

*17 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. This is the sign of genuineness in every letter of mine; it is the way I write.*

So if Paul had enlisted the help of a scribe and at this point took the letter and himself began to write, then the change in handwriting would naturally be very obvious to the reader. However, this letter was an encyclical, that is, a letter that was intended to be read aloud in several churches. Remember this letter was written “to all the churches” (plural) in the region of Galatia (Gal 1:2). In noting the change in this way, Paul would then capture the attention of the listener as well as the reader.

### Large Letters for Emphasis?

There are some scholars who argue forcefully that Paul wrote the entire letter himself and did not use a scribe at all.<sup>4</sup> If they are correct, then Paul’s point in using “large letters” may have been for the sake of **emphasis**. This would be akin today to typing in **bold** or ALL CAPITAL typeface.

### Large Letters Because of Eye Problems?

Some have also understood the “large letters” to be a result of an eye problem. You will recall that we have mentioned this before. The understanding is that Paul’s thorn in the flesh (2 Cor 12:7) had to do with an eye disease that weakened his vision. The thorn in the flesh came about as a result of the heavenly vision Paul experienced.

Paul stated in chapter 4 that the reason he preached the gospel to them in the first place was due to “a bodily ailment” (Gal 4:13) and that if possible the Galatians would have “gouged out your eyes and given them to me” (Gal 4:15). So if he did have a vision problem then it would have been necessary for him to write in “large letters” so that he could see what he was writing.

Whatever the reason, it is clear that Paul had the stylus in his own hand as he wrote these final sentences. He desired that there be no doubt that these concluding thoughts were written out of his own broken heart and grieving mind. He is saying, “This is me, Paul, writing to you! Don’t you remember, my love for you when I lived with you?”

## A Loving Father

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<sup>3</sup> Kenneth S. Wuest, *Wuest’s Word Studies from the Greek New Testament : For the English Reader* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997), Ga 6:11.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

The tone of this sentence reminds me of a loving father pleading with his teen not to be drawn away into sinful lifestyles of godless people who promise fun and excitement but all they deliver is barrenness and pain.

### A Wise Guide

The tone is one of a wise guide who has long ago walked the path that is about to be taken and has discovered that despite the lush scenery at the head of the trail, the end is sudden and abrupt leading only to a slippery ledge of a sheer cliff.

Paul's thoughts then turn away from his own love for these Galatians and to the crooked motives of these false teachers. He turns his attention to those false teachers who have been the occasion of all this grief, confusion, and deception. He turns to those who have hindered the Galatians from "running well" and from "obeying the truth."

Paul, one final time, exposes their true motives and offers them a stern warning. He compares their self-exalting boasting with his own Christ-exalting boasting and he mentions the offense of the cross. He offers a one sentence summary of true religion and what is necessary for salvation. He concludes with a blessing on all who embrace the truth that he is preaching.

### The False Teachers (vs.12-13)

Paul notes four problems with the false teachers.

1. Their desire "to make a good show in the flesh."
2. Their desire to avoid persecution.
3. Their inability to keep the law.
4. Their faulty basis for boasting.

### Galatians 6:12 (ESV)

*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.*

### First Problem: To Be Outwardly Impressive

The first problem he notes is their desire to be outwardly impressive. They are only concerned with outward appearances. Paul reminds the Galatians of the true motives of these Judaizers. They want to "make a good showing in the flesh." They simply want to be outwardly impressive. All they care about is putting on a good show.

The word for flesh here is *sarx* which for Paul will refer to all that humanity is apart from God. It refers to our natural tendency towards sin and away from God. It refers to all we can do in our own strength apart from any reliance upon or trust in God.

The words 'to make a fair [or good] show,' are from *euprosopēō* (εὐπροσπεω) which is made up of the words *eu* (εὖ) meaning *well* [or good], and *prosopon* (προσποιν), *face*, thus 'to present a good looking face.' This is its literal meaning.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Kenneth S. Wuest, *Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament : For the English Reader* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997), Ga 6:12.

Today we might say that they wanted “to put on a good face.” When we say this we mean that we intend to show something to be different than it really and truly is. We want a thing to look better than it really is. Deception is inherent in the meaning.

The main concern of these false teachers is outward and external. They want to make a good impression upon certain men. These Judaizers were man pleasers. They were more interested in impressing certain influential men than they were in impressing God. They desired to look good before sinful man rather than before the Holy God. They were insincere and not actually who they appeared to be.

They *appeared* to be concerned for the things of God and to truly be concerned about the genuine spiritual progress of the Galatians. However, the reality was the exact opposite. How would they make a “good showing in the flesh?” By **forcing** the Galatians to be **circumcised**. These false teachers came teaching that circumcision was required in order to be accepted by God. They then went on to add the keeping of the entire Mosaic law—observing “days, months, seasons, and years” (Gal 4:10).

### It’s About Pleasing Man, Not God

Paul cuts to the heart of all this. The truth is that none of this is about genuine religion. This is not about true spirituality. This is all about looking good before men. This is about rigorous, external religiosity masquerading as true religion. This is all about being *seen* as spiritual in blind eyes of vain humanity.

This is not about keeping the law and being obedient to God, though it *appears* to be. This is not about doing what is necessary to be accepted by God. This is about doing what is necessary to be highly esteemed among *men*. But we cannot play games with God. God knows every secret thought within the depths of every heart (Psalm 44:21). We can put on a good face with each other, but no one can deceive God.

### Hebrews 4:13

*No creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account.*

No one hides anything from God who created eyes. He sees everything even the motivation of our more secret desires. All of this outward religiosity has nothing to do with God and everything to do with being thought well of by men. This is the first problem with the false teachers—they wanted to impress men. They wanted to make a good showing in the flesh. They wanted to put on a good face.

### Second Problem: To Avoid Persecution (v.12b)

The second problem was that they wanted to avoid persecution. The other reason they desire the Galatians to be circumcised is so that they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. The cross is and was controversial. It is embarrassing and offensive. Remember what Paul wrote to the Corinthians?

### 1 Corinthians 1:23 (ESV)

*but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly [foolishness] to Gentiles,*

The cross was a stumbling block to the Jews. It was an object of shame and degradation. There was nothing desirable about it. It represented disgrace and guilt and condemnation. It was a torturous means of executing the criminals and outcasts of society. Heros were not hung on crosses. Thieves were. No positive connotation attached to the idea of the cross. No one wore a cross on their necklace! It was not an emblem of pride. The cross was a symbol of shame. The cross was offensive (Gal 5:11). Jews hated the idea of the cross and so did the Romans.

The Roman statesman Marcus Tullius (43B.C.) call crucifixion the “most cruel and disgusting punishment.”<sup>6</sup> He went on to say,

“It is a crime to put a Roman citizen in chains, it is atrocious to flog one, sheer murder to slay one; what, then, shall I say of crucifixion? It is impossible to find the word for such an abomination.”<sup>7</sup>

“Cicero wrote ‘Let the very mention of the cross be far removed not only from a Roman citizen’s body, but from his mind, his eyes and his ears.’ The cross was so hideous to contemplate that it was against the law for any Roman citizen to be crucified.”<sup>8</sup>

“Both Greeks and Romans restricted its use to slaves, considering it too barbaric for citizens. In the imperial era the Romans extended the use to foreigners, but even so it was used mainly for crimes against the state. Crucifixion was universally recognized as the most horrible type of execution.”<sup>9</sup>

The cross is simply offensive (Gal 5:11). And in order to avoid the persecution that arose from identification with the cross, these false teachers began trying to compel the Galatians Gentiles to be circumcised. They wanted these Gentiles to live like Jews. If they could just get them to live like Jews and look like Jews, then any talk of the cross would be eliminated and along with it so would the possibility of persecution.

The offense of the cross remains to this day. It’s OK to wear a cross as a piece of jewelry, but just try to talk about the details of Jesus’ crucifixion. Try to explain why the cross is precious to Christians and you will find yourself receiving strange looks and awkward silences. The cross is still offensive to this very day.

The first problem with the Judaizers was that they wanted to make a good showing in the flesh. The second problem was that they wanted to avoid the persecution of the cross of Christ. This leads us to the third problem.

### The Third Problem: Judaizers Did Not Keep the Law (v.13)

The third problem was that the Judaizers themselves, even though they were circumcised, did not keep the law.

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<sup>6</sup> Philemon Akao, “The Roman Cross and the Cross of Jesus” available <http://www.solomonstarnews.com/features/religion/4516-the-roman-cross-and-the-cross-of-jesus> at accessed 18 March 2011.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Walter A. Elwell and Philip Wesley Comfort, *Tyndale Bible Dictionary*, Tyndale reference library (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers, 2001), 337.

### **Galatians 6:13 (ESV)**

*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.*

These Judaizers came in teaching that you need to be circumcised like us so that you can demonstrate your love for God and be obedient to Him so that He will receive you. Yet Paul points out a major problem. The false teachers themselves did not keep the law. How does he know? Because no one kept the law. Paul knew because he had tried. He had tried and failed.

No one can obey all of the law. If obedience is to be the standard by which you are accepted by God, then it must be perfect obedience, not well-intentioned occasional obedience. If you would live by the law, then one must obey ALL of the law and this is something that only one human being has ever done. So Paul can very confidently say, no matter who these false teachers are, they have failed to keep all of the law. He does not have to know their names or even who they are because he knows that everyone falls short of the righteousness that God requires. Everyone, that is, except Jesus. Jesus is the only human who ever perfectly kept the law.

### **The Fourth Problem: Faulty Basis for Boasting**

Paul then notes a final problem with the false teachers. They have a faulty basis for boasting. They want to boast in the flesh of the Galatians. This simply means that the false teachers are looking to count up how many converts they have won. They want to go back to their friends in Jerusalem (or wherever) and say, “We made 70 converts in Galatia.”

We experience this same kind of “head counting” today, do we not? How many people go to your church? How many people did you baptize last year? How many people come to your Bible study? How many people are in your small group?

Are we boasting in what we in our own strength are able to accomplish? Or are we boasting in what God has clearly brought about? It’s a fine line isn’t it? Do we desire to give glory to God or are we pleased when we can get the glory? In praising ourselves do we throw in the word “God” so that no one will be able to discern our true motives?

Paul could smell the arrogance and self-exaltation of these false teachers. So he turns it on its head. Paul will not abandon all boasting. He simply chose to boast in what God has done rather than what man has done.

### **Galatians 6:14**

*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.*

### **Boasting In the Cross**

The Judaizers were ashamed of the cross, so Paul says he will boast in the cross. The Judaizers were boasting in what man could do, so Paul will boast in what God has done. The Judaizers were boasting in everything but the cross. Paul decides he will boast ONLY in the cross. The false teachers wanted nothing to do with the cross. Paul says his life is defined by the cross.



## The Cross Is the Heart of the Gospel

Paul will boast in the cross because the cross contains the central message of Christianity. The cross is the centerpiece of our faith and is the heart of the gospel.

First, the cross points to the fact that sin is a reality and must be paid for by death. God does not sweep sin under the cosmic rug of the universe. The Bible is clear, God will not allow the guilty<sup>10</sup> to get off scot-free.<sup>11</sup> God is not so loving as to completely overlook hard-hearted rebellion, injustice, evil, and sin. God is love but He is also just. Sin is real and the only way for sins to be atoned for is through the shedding of blood, that is, death. And the only blood that is acceptable blood is innocent blood.

Why did God, for how many generations, allow innocent animals to have their blood spilled when it was people who had done the wrong? Was it not to be a pointer to the fact that one day there would arise a man who would be sinless who would shed His pure, sinless blood so that we might live and not die?

Every human being has sinned and as a result rightly falls under the condemnation of God. No sinner can secure (or earn) his or her own salvation. He or she has no right. The cost is too high for mortal man to pay.

### **Psalms 49:7**

*Truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life,*

Sinful blood is completely unacceptable to receive eternal life. Therefore, salvation can only come from someone who has never sinned. There is only person who has never sinned and that is Jesus. Therefore, there is only one person who has the right to eternal life and that is Jesus.

There is nothing that you can do that will earn your salvation. Nothing. This fact eliminates all boasting in the flesh because there is nothing that anyone can do that is worthy enough to earn the right to eternal life. Not circumcision, not baptism, not church attendance, not tithing, not giving away millions of dollars to sick and hungry people, Nothing. Not even obeying obeying the law.

### **Galatians 2:21**

*...if justification were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.*

If there is another way to be saved apart from faith in Jesus, then Jesus' death was for nothing. This fact is why the cross of Jesus is so offensive. It is because Jesus' death is necessary. The cross of Jesus is not optional or additional. Humanity cannot save itself. This is offensive to our innate, sinful desire to boast in ourselves. Salvation does not come as a result of human effort. **Nothing, nothing done in the flesh will save the soul of man.** No deed you do will ever do will earn you salvation or make you righteous in God's eyes. Things done in the flesh do not count toward salvation.

## What counts is a new creation!

### **Galatians 6:15**

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

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<sup>10</sup> See Ex 19:5; 34:7.

<sup>11</sup> On the phrase 'scot-free' see <http://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/scot%20free.html> accessed 19 Mar 2011.



Receiving circumcision, which is something done in the flesh, does not earn you eternal life any more than refusing to accept circumcision does. Circumcision counts for nothing. Uncircumcision counts for nothing. Being a Jew counts for nothing. Being a Gentile counts for nothing. Being born in America counts for nothing. Being born anywhere else counts for nothing. Being black counts for nothing. Being white counts for nothing. **What counts is a new creation!**

This is *THE* point of the entire letter to the struggling Galatians. This is the focal point of the whole book. Becoming a new creation is not something you do. It is something God does. Only God can create new life. Only God can make things new. Becoming a new creation is being born again. You did not create yourself. God did. There is only one Creator and He is God. You did not give yourself physical life. God did. You did not give yourself spiritual life. God did.

### **1 Cor 1:30**

*He [God] is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.*

God accepts us not based upon what we do, but based upon our faith in what Jesus did. New life in Christ comes as a gracious gift of God. Outward religiosity is not what counts. A new creation is what counts. Inward, true, spiritual life comes about as a result of the creative work of God who gives life to dead sinners through His Holy Spirit. A new creation is new birth. A new creation is what happens when we are born again.

But how? How do dead sinners become new creations??? By putting faith in Jesus!

### **Galatians 5:6**

*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.*

Faith is the means through which we become born again. God's love is poured out upon us as He gives us His Holy Spirit (Rom 5:5). Faith is exercised when we finally realize that we cannot save ourselves and that we will be eternally lost without Jesus. Faith is the looking away of the soul from self and to Jesus for forgiveness of sins.

Faith is trusting in Jesus! Faith is receiving Jesus! Faith is looking to Jesus! Faith is crying out to Jesus, "Save me!" Faith is leaning upon His wisdom and not your own. *Faith is placing your confidence in all that Jesus is—Redeemer, Savior, Lord, Master, Teacher, Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God!!* Faith rejoices in the fact that He is everything and we are nothing.

### **What Does A New Creation Look Like?**

Paul says, as a new creation he has had the "world crucified to him and he to the world." The world is dead to Paul and Paul is dead to the world. The world no longer desires Paul and Paul no longer desires the world. The world no longer loves Paul and Paul no longer loves the things of the world.

## **2 Cor 6:8-10**

*8 through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true;*

*9 as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed;*

*10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.*

Paul was as nothing to the world and the world was as nothing to Paul. The world did not esteem Paul and Paul did not esteem the world. Why? Because Paul had found something (i.e. someone) of much greater value than all the riches of the world. Paul died to the world because the world could not give him life. Paul came alive to God because through Jesus he found true life. He found a greater treasure in Jesus than all the gold on the planet. So he died to the world. He no longer looked to the world to find love, because he found himself loved completely by God through Jesus.

This is what it means to be Christian. It means you love Jesus more than anything, more than anything.... more than wife, or children, or parents, or home, or job, or fame, or career, or praise. True religion means you care nothing for the praise of men and you care very much for the praise that comes from God.

## **Galatians 6:16**

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

All who live life based upon this rule will walk in peace because God's mercy is upon them. Experiencing the peace and mercy that only comes from God through faith in Jesus is better and sweeter than health itself.

## **Galatians 6:17**

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

Paul throws one final stab at the lies of the false teachers. The false teachers wanted the Galatians to experience circumcision, which made certain "marks" in the flesh. Paul says, "If you want to talk about marks in the flesh, let me tell you about the marks in my flesh." Those Galatians with whom Paul had lived for a while, no doubt saw his physical condition.

## **2 Cor 11:23-28**

*23 Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death.*

*24 Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one.*

*25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea;*

*26 on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers;*

*27 in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.*

*28 And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.*

No one experiences these kinds of physical suffering without severe scarring. This last sentence, about the marks of Christ, would have in the minds of the Galatians, recalled to mind all of Paul's scars. They would have remembered his battered skin and scarred flesh.

Paul loved the people and he told them the clear gospel. Casting oneself upon the feet of Jesus asking for new life is where salvation begins. New birth happens by faith in Jesus. And then the Christian life is continually lived by faith - a continual trusting in the righteousness of Jesus and not in our own righteousness. Jesus and Jesus alone is righteous. I, in my flesh, am not and never will be. My righteousness is found in Jesus.

**1 Cor 1:30**

*He [God] is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.*

Jesus is my everything. He is my wisdom because I have none. He is my righteousness because I have none. He is my sanctification because mine fails. He is my redemption because I cannot redeem myself. This is faith. Looking to Jesus to be your everything. This is a description of the new creation.

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