The Enemies of the Israel of God

Gal. 6:16—*And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.*

Eze 38:1—*And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,*

*2 Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,*

*3 And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:*

*4 And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:*

*5 Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet:*

*6 Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.*

*7 Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them.*

Gen. 10:1*—Now these are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth: and unto them were sons born after the flood.*

*2 The sons of Japheth; Gomer, and Magog, and Madai, and Javan, and Tubal, and Meshech, and Tiras.*

*3 And the sons of Gomer; Ashkenaz, and Riphath, and Togarmah.*

*4 And the sons of Javan; Elishah, and Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim.*

*5 By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations.*

Ezek.38:4—*And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:*

Acts 17:5*—But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them* ***certain lewd fellows of the baser sort****, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.*

Ga 6:14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

17 From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

18 Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

**Ministers**: true ministers boast in the cross of Christ. The cross of Christ is the *only boast* of a true minister of God, for there is no other approach to God. God accepts a person only if he comes to Him by way of the cross. There is no other way to become acceptable to God. Therefore, the true minister has no other message, no other truth of which to boast. Paul gave four reasons why the cross is the minister's only boast.

1. The cross crucifies the world to men and men to the world.

What does this mean?

1. First, the cross crucifies the world to men. The world has all kinds of attractions that appeal to men, and men lust after the attractions.

There are such attractions as...

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| •  position  •  power  •  acceptance  •  recognition  •  money | Worldlythings  •  pleasure  •  honor  •  food  •  possessions |

include every appealing attraction on earth, but what is the end of it all? Deterioration, decay, death, and then judgment. Even man himself ages, dies, and decays. There is nothing on earth that lasts and lives eternally.

God has shown that He loves the people of the world, and He has demonstrated His love in the most perfect way possible. How?

God sent His Son into the world to *die for men* and to free them from the world. When Jesus Christ died upon the cross, He bore the penalty of our transgressions. He took the law's condemnation of death against us and bore the condemnation for us. Therefore, any person who believes that Jesus Christ died for him shall be saved from this world of death. God declares that he will count that person as having been crucified with Christ. The person never has to die. When the moment comes for the person to pass from this world into the next, God will transfer the person right into His presence to live eternally. It will all happen within the blinking of an eye. The person who believes in Christ will never die, never taste or experience death.

This is what is meant by the world being crucified to the believer. *The believer never has to go the way of the world*, that is, the way of sin, corruption, death, and judgment.

⇒  Jesus Christ died to deliver the believer from the world, all its bondages including the bondage of death.

⇒  The Spirit of Jesus Christ lives within the believer to give him the power to overcome the world in all its corruptible attractions.

Through the Spirit of God, the believer has the power to conquer the lusts of the flesh.

1. The cross crucified men (believers) to the world.

What does this mean?

When the believer dies to the world, he turns away from the attractions and pleasures of the world; therefore, the believer must become unattractive to the world. Worldly men do not like what they see, for the believer is rejecting the life-style and pleasures of the world. Consequently, the worldly want nothing to do with the believer. They want him out of their way. They want him as non-existent, as a dead person to them. Therefore, when a person comes to the cross of Christ, the cross crucifies him to the world and its ways. He is no longer attractive to the world.

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" ([Romans 6:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+6%3A6)). For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh" ([2 Cor. 4:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+4%3A11)).

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" ([Galatians 2:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+2%3A20)).

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him" ([2 Tim. 2:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ti+2%3A11)).

2.  The cross creates a new man. Nothing makes a person acceptable to God except God's very own Son, Jesus Christ. No religion, no law, no ritual—nothing can avail anything with God except Jesus Christ. Therefore, if any man wishes to live with God, he has *to believe in Jesus Christ and approach God in the name of Jesus Christ*.

Now a very practical question arises: How does using the name of Jesus Christ make a person live forever? Does a person become acceptable to God by just approaching God and saying, "God, I come to you in the name of Jesus Christ"? No! And there is one good reason. God knows who is really sincere and who is not. God cannot be deceived. *Words and false profession*—just using the words "in the name of Jesus Christ"—will not save anyone. A person has to be genuinely sincere.

The point is this: when a person is sincere in his belief, God gives the person a new spirit—a recreated spirit. God actually places His divine nature, the presence of His own Spirit, into the person's life. The person is "born again" spiritually. He becomes what Scripture calls a *new creature*, a *new man*.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" ([John 3:3-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+3%3A3-6)).

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" ([2 Cor. 5:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+5%3A17)).

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature" ([Galatians 6:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+6%3A15)).

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" ([Ephes. 4:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+4%3A24)).

And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him" ([Col. 3:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+3%3A10)).

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" ([1 Peter 1:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+1%3A23)).

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" ([2 Peter 1:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+1%3A4)).

Beloved, let us love one other: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God" ([1 John 4:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Jn+4%3A7)).

Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten [born again] of him" ([1 John 5:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Jn+5%3A1)).

1. The cross brings peace and mercy ([Galatians 6:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+6%3A16)).

Who experiences peace and mercy: those who walk by the *rule of the cross and of the new creature*. A person who walks after the cross, seeking to live as a new creature in Christ Jesus will be given...

•  the peace of God

•  the mercy of God. He will experience both the forgiveness of sins and the acceptance of God. And most wonderfully, he will be given the *perfect assurance* of eternal life and of God's care.

The church and believers are called "the Israel of God." in whom God fulfills His promises.

1. The cross gives purpose to the scars of life. Christ had suffered for Paul; therefore, Paul was willing to suffer for Christ. And suffer he did. He bore as much as any man has had to bear for Christ

The word for marks (stigmata) means the branding marks that masters put upon their slaves. The marks identified the slaves as belonging to them.

The point is clear: Paul had subjected his body so much and suffered so much persecution for Christ that his body bore the marks of such subjection and suffering. He could say that the marks upon his body were the branding marks of Christ—the marks that proved his slavery and service to Christ. Therefore, let no man deny his call and ministry for the Lord. He had strong evidence that he was a true minister of the Lord Jesus: the very marks upon his body. The cross of Jesus Christ drove Paul to serve Christ, even to the point of suffering beyond imagination.

The believer who suffers reproach, ridicule, mockery, and other persecutions because of his stand for Christ—that believer bears the marks of Christ in his body.

Paul ends the letter to the Galatians abruptly. He will not let attacks upon his ministry nor upon the gospel of Christ hinder His faith. The churches and their people need to repent and get rid of the false teachers. Until then:

 Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen"

1Ti 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. 2Ti 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 1Sa 17:20 And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle. 21 For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army. And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid.