

CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

432A

# THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



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## BOOK OF GALATIANS – LESSON 14

### Chapter Six, Continued

1. **A Verse To Consider (V11)** “*Ye see how \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ I have written unto you with \_\_\_\_\_ own \_\_\_\_\_.*” This is likely the first of the Pauline epistles recorded in the Holy Canon. Other epistles that would follow are lengthier. Paul generally used an *amanuensis*, that is, he dictated and another did the actual writing. The scholars are divided on the meaning of this verse, some suggesting he had weak eyesight, was unskilled in Greek, etc. There is no evidence to support any of these claims. We take it that he is so troubled about the sudden defection of the Galatians from the gospel that he mentions this in closing to communicate his deep concern.
2. **More (V11)** He highly educated in The Law as he reports (Acts 22:1) speaking “*in the \_\_\_\_\_ tongue*” and (V3) relating, “*I am verily a man which \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, a city in Cilicia, yet \_\_\_\_\_ in this city at the \_\_\_\_\_ of Gamaliel, and taught according to the \_\_\_\_\_ manner of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the fathers.*” The charge that Paul was weak in Greek doesn’t make sense. Clarke says that Tarsus, “...according to Strabo, rivaled both Athens and Alexandria in philosophy, and in arts and sciences; and therefore he could not be ignorant of a tongue which must have been the very means of conveying all this instruction.” Strabo (63/64 BC-24 AD) was a Greek historian, geographer, and philosopher.
3. **Judaism vs Christianity (V12)** “*As many as desire to make a fair \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_, they constrain you to be \_\_\_\_\_.*” Judaism was popular in southern Galatia because it wasn’t as strict as Christianity which demands duty and service in Christ’s kingdom. The ongoing matter of circumcision was the long suit of the Jews.
4. **More (V12)** One almost gets the picture that as long as you were circumcised that was mostly what mattered. Some today have the notion that as long as you have been baptized little else matters. “*...only \_\_\_\_\_ they should \_\_\_\_\_ persecution \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.*” Hypocrites (whom Paul infers) have an aversion to “getting into the trenches” and doing the “grunt work.” Later, as persecution against Christianity increased greatly, Paul would write: (2 Tim 3:12) “*Yea, and all that \_\_\_\_\_ live \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ suffer \_\_\_\_\_.*”
5. **Thought Continued (V13)** “*For neither \_\_\_\_\_ themselves \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ keep the \_\_\_\_\_.*” They gloried in making circumcised converts, not in keeping the law. It seems that the demands the Judaizers placed upon new converts was minimal at best. They “*desire to have you \_\_\_\_\_, that they may \_\_\_\_\_ in your \_\_\_\_\_.*” **Huxtable:** “Paul meant, It is from no zeal for the Law that they do what they do, for they are at no pains to keep the Law; but only with the object of currying favor with the Jews.” There is truly “*no new thing under the sun.*” Many religions operate the same today by cajoling and enticing with food, games, gags, and gimmicks.