

**Title:** Embrace The Offensive Cross

**Text:** Galatians 5:7-12

**Main Idea:** False teachers must be identified and rejected that we may honor God.

**Division Statements:**

**1. False teachers hinder obedience to the Word of God (v. 7).**

The image here is of a runner who is impeded, cut off or knocked over in the pursuit of his goal.

**2. False teachers contaminate the church with a persuasion that is not from God (vv. 8-9).**

In Scripture, leaven often represents sin as in Jesus warning about the “leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees,” which referred to their doctrine (Matt. 16:6,12). God uses the figure of leaven to indicate the permeating power of false teaching and its ability to infect and spread through a group of people.

**3. False teachers will be judged (v. 10).**

Paul introduces this declaration with a word of encouragement to true believers similar Phil. 1:6, “I am confident of this very thing; that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” The destiny of believers is secure. Jesus says, “They shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of My hand” (John 10:28). And the means the Lord would use to protect the Galatians was this very letter.

**4. False teachers persecute true teachers (v. 11).**

Discuss the “offense of the cross” (σκάνδαλον). May we never be ashamed of it or seek to remove its offense to avoid persecution or compromise with the world.

**5. False teachers should be passionately opposed (v. 12).**

ἀποκόπτω is the Greek word for the removal of the male reproductive organs. Two reasons the Spirit included this harsh phrase: 1) To show the internal inconsistency of works righteousness; 2) To show how passionately this false gospel must be opposed.

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Bridging From Text To Sermon

**Textual Idea:** Paul describes and responds to the false teachers who reject the offense of the cross.

**Sermon Proposition:** False teachers must be identified and rejected that we may honor God.

**Interrogative:** How do we identify and respond to false teachers?

**Transition:** The text reveals several truths to guide us in this regard.

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