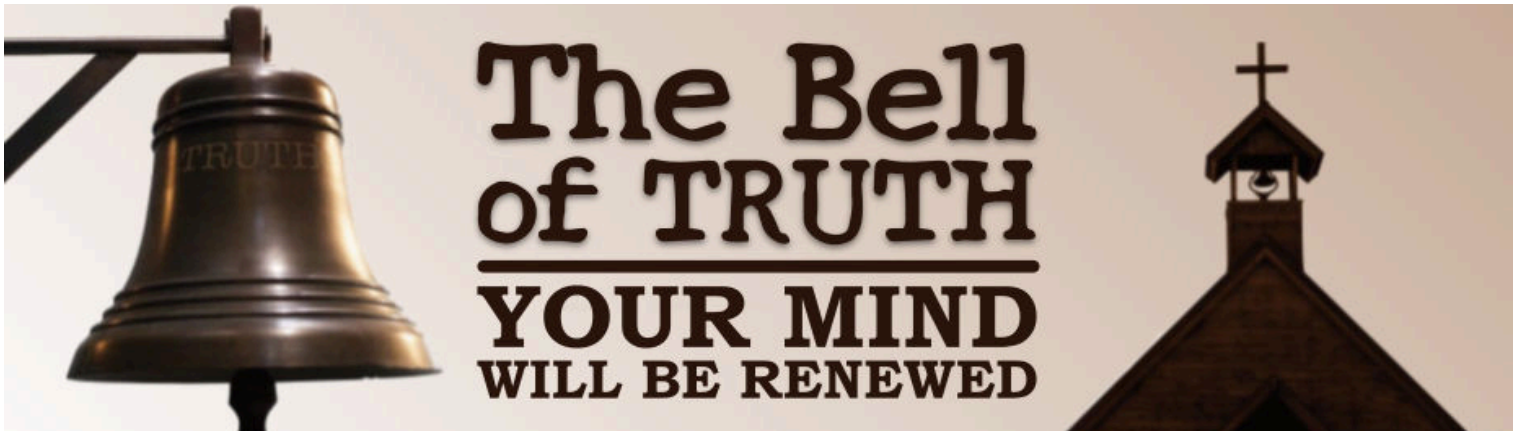


Week of September 24 Small Group Lesson #9

Connect

Helen H. Lemmel, totally blind, wrote nearly 500 hymns. Although blind and in poverty she would always say, "I'm doing well in all the things that count". One of her best loved songs is titled Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus, the refrain goes like this:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full, in his wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of your glory and grace.

How does this song speak to you?

Verses - Galatians 6:11-18 (NKJV)

11 See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! 12 As
many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel
you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the
cross of Christ. 13 For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but
they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. 14 But
God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For in
Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a
new creation. 16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and
mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. 17 From now on let no one
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.

Study

Key Questions

1. Name at least two reasons why the Jewish Christians in Galatia were compelling Gentile Christians to be circumcised?
2. Why was Paul opposed to this?

Additional Questions

3. In verse 14, what does Paul mean when he says that the cross has crucified the world to him, and him to the world?
4. In verse 15, what is the “new creation” to which Paul refers?
5. In verse 16, what is the “rule” to which Paul refers?
6. In verse 17, what do you think Paul means when he says that he bears in his body the marks of the Lord Jesus?
7. In verse 18, why do you think that Paul blesses the spirit of his readers?

DISCUSS: Contrast and compare circumcision among the Jews with baptism among Christians? What are some of the key similarities and differences? (Colossians 2:11-12; Romans 4:11-12; Galatians 3:14; 1 Corinthians 12:13)

APPLY: Considering Paul’s experience and teaching in Galatia, in what sense is it OK for us to boast about how many new believers are being baptized in our church? In what sense is it not OK? (1 Corinthians 1:17; Acts 2:41; 1 Corinthians 3:6-7)

Share

Since becoming a Christian, how has the cross crucified the world to you, and how has the cross crucified you to the world? (v.14) How have you experienced the new creation? (v.15)

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray that God will not allow us to boast in anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ or let us add to anything to the gospel by which we are saved.
- Let us instead turn our eyes upon Jesus and allow ourselves to be transformed by the Holy Spirit into what God intends for us to be of the new Creation.