



THE WORK THAT GOD REQUIRES: FREE TO FOLLOW?

Galatians 6:11-18



VS. 11

Perhaps a reference to Paul's eyesight following the incident on the road to Damascus Acts 9:1-19.

Perhaps something similar to Jacob's limp? Gen 32

Perhaps the large letters were for greater emphasis



VS. 12

“a good impression outwardly”

Who looks on the outward appearance?

1 Sam. 16:7

Consider also Matt. 23:25-26

“They loved the praise of men...” (John 12:43)

Whose praise am I living for?



“To avoid being persecuted...”

There is no way to faithfully follow Jesus
without great cost Matt. 16:24-27

Consider ‘witnesses’ Acts 1:8

YET ...“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words
of eternal life.” John 6:68



VS. 13

Hypocrisy on full display

See Matt. 23 for an overview

Jesus addresses their zealous pursuit of Gentile converts in Matt. 23:15



VS. 14

Where then is boasting? Rom. 3:27ff

See also Jer. 9:23-24

Through the Cross, the world is 'dead' to those who are in Christ – and we are dead to the world



VS. 15-16

Salvation not by law but by grace Eph. 2:8-9

A new creation

2 Cor. 5:17

All who are in Christ (Messianic Jews incl.) experience
God's peace and mercy



VS. 17

“the marks...” in the Greek, a brand used to identify slaves or animals who ‘belonged’ to another. Paul’s own suffering for the Gospel effectively branded him as a servant of Christ (2 Cor. 11, etc.)

Do you remember when you sang through tears of
resolve,

“I have decided to follow Jesus.

No turning back” ?



Hast thou no scar?

No hidden scar on foot, or side, or hand?

I hear thee sung as mighty in the land;

I hear them hail thy bright ascendant star.

Hast those no scar?

Hast thou no wound?

Yet I was wounded by the archers; spent,

Leaned Me against a tree to die; and rent

By ravening beasts that compassed Me, I swooned.

Hast those no wound?



No wound? No scar?

Yet, as the Master shall the servant be,
and pierced are the feet that follow Me.

But thine are whole; can he have followed far
who hast no wound or scar?

- Amy Carmichael
Irish Christian missionary to India