

# Galatians 6:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand.

## Analysis

**Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand.** Paul begins his personal conclusion. "Ye see how large a letter" (idete pēlikois hymin grammasin egrapsa, ἴδετε πηλίκοις ὑμῖν γράμμασιν ἔγραψα)—see with what large letters I wrote to you. Gramma (γράμμα) can mean letters (alphabet characters) or letter (epistle). "Large letters" could mean:

1. large handwriting (possibly due to poor eyesight, 4:15), or
2. lengthy letter, or
3. bold, emphatic writing.

Most translations favor large handwriting.

"With mine own hand" (tē emē cheiri, τῇ ἐμῇ χειρί)—with my own hand. Paul typically dictated letters to a scribe (amanuensis), signing personally at the end (Romans 16:22, 1 Corinthians 16:21, Colossians 4:18, 2 Thessalonians 3:17). Galatians may have been entirely written by Paul himself (unusual) or he wrote the conclusion from verse 11 forward in his own handwriting. Either way, he emphasizes personal authorship, authenticating the letter and underlining its urgency. The personal touch reinforces: this isn't abstract theology but urgent pastoral appeal from one who loves them.

## Historical Context

---

Ancient letter-writing typically involved dictation to trained scribes who could write quickly and neatly. Wealthy, educated persons often couldn't write as beautifully as professional scribes. Paul's trade as tentmaker suggests manual labor, not scribal training. If he had poor eyesight (speculation from 4:13-15), writing would be difficult. Regardless, his personal handwriting (whether the whole letter or the conclusion) authenticated the letter and expressed deep personal concern. The tactile, visual emphasis—"Ye see"—called attention to the physical letter as tangible expression of apostolic authority and pastoral love.

## Related Passages

---

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

---

1. How does Paul's personal handwriting and emphasis on physical letter-writing speak to the value of personal, tangible communication?
2. What does Paul's willingness to write personally (despite difficulty) reveal about his pastoral heart for the Galatians?
3. How can you personally invest in communicating important spiritual truths to those you care about?

## Interlinear Text

---

Ἴδετε	πηλίκους	ὑμῖν	γράμμασιν	ἔγραψα	τῇ
<b>Ye see</b>	<b>how large</b>	<b>unto you</b>	<b>a letter</b>	<b>I have written</b>	G3588
G1492	G4080	G5213	G1121	G1125	
ἐμῇ	χειρί				
<b>with mine own</b>	<b>hand</b>				
G1699	G5495				

