

Galatians 6:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

Analysis

From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Paul's personal appeal for cessation of opposition. "From henceforth let no man trouble me" (tou loipou kopous moi mēdeis parechetō, τοῦ λοιποῦ κόπους μοι μηδεὶς παρεχέτω)—from now on, let no one cause me trouble, toil, difficulty. Kopos (κόπος) means labor, trouble, difficulty. Paul is exhausted from fighting this battle and commands: stop troubling me with circumcision controversies!

"For I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus" (egō gar ta stigmata tou Iēsou en tō sōmati mou bastazō, ἐγὼ γὰρ τὰ στίγματα τοῦ Ἰησοῦ ἐν τῷ σώματι μου βαστάζω)—for I carry in my body the brand marks of Jesus. Stigmata (στίγματα) were brand marks burned into slaves or soldiers identifying their master/commander. Paul's scars from beatings, stonings, floggings (2 Corinthians 11:23-27) marked him as Jesus's slave. The Judaizers boasted in converts' circumcision marks; Paul points to his scars from suffering for Christ. These authenticating marks prove his devotion and authority. Circumcision is mere flesh-marking; Paul's wounds demonstrate genuine discipleship.

Historical Context

Paul suffered extensively for the gospel: beaten with rods, stoned, whipped, imprisoned (Acts 14:19, 16:22-23, 2 Corinthians 11:23-27). These left permanent scars—his "stigmata." In Greco-Roman culture, slaves and soldiers bore literal

brands identifying ownership. Paul uses this imagery: his scars brand him as Jesus's slave. The contrast with circumcision is striking: Judaizers valued one small ceremonial cut; Paul bore body-covering wounds from gospel ministry. His scars testified louder than their circumcisions. Throughout church history, martyrs' scars and deaths testified powerfully to gospel reality.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What 'marks' in your life demonstrate your belonging to Jesus and devotion to Him?
2. How does Paul's appeal to scars versus the Judaizers' appeal to circumcision illustrate the difference between true and false discipleship?
3. What would you be willing to suffer for Christ that would leave 'marks' testifying to your loyalty to Him?

Interlinear Text

Τοῦ λοιποῦ κόπους μοι μηδεὶς παρεχέτω· ἐγὼ γὰρ

G3588 From henceforth me G3427 no man let I for
G3064 G2873 G3367 G3930 G1473 G1063

τὰ στίγματα τοῦ Κυριοῦ Ἰησοῦ ἐν τῷ σώματί μου

G3588 the marks of the Lord Jesus in G3588 body my
G4742 G2962 G2424 G1722 G4983 G3450

βαστάζω

bear

G941

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 1:5 (Parallel theme): For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

Colossians 1:24 (Parallel theme): Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

2 Corinthians 4:10 (References Jesus): Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

Hebrews 12:15 (Parallel theme): Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Acts 15:24 (Parallel theme): Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:

Joshua 7:25 (References Lord): And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones.

