

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: [Galatians 6:11-18](#); esp. v16.
- B. Last Sunday, I briefly mentioned that the church is the spiritual Israel of God. Physical Israel was God's covenant people under the Law, and the church is God's Israel today (His covenant people).
- C. This morning's lesson is to go into a little more detail about this fact. To better understand the designation in Gal. 6:16 and how we are to respond because of it.

I. THE ISRAEL OF GOD ARE THE CHILDREN OF PROMISE.

- A. Scripture text: Rom. 4:13-16; 9:6-8; 11:25,26.
- B. The promise given to Abraham was not given according to the Law, because it was given before the Law.
- C. Rather, it is given by grace and faith so we can be called the children of Abraham. We as Gentiles, become part of the inheritance, not by birth but by re-birth (Gal. 3:27-29; esp. v29).
- D. Paul says that fleshly Israel is not the true Israel of God. Those Jews and Gentiles who have obeyed God in faith are the real heirs according to the promise (Rom. 11:25,26).

II. THE ISRAEL OF GOD IS LEAD BY THE APOSTLES.

- A. Scripture text: Mt. 19:28; Eph. 2:20.
- B. Jesus refers to the church as the twelve tribes over which the apostles would judge, rule, lead and deliver (Jas. 1:1).
- C. Ephesians 2:20 tells of the apostles being part of the foundation of the church. It is in this way they judge spiritual Israel.
- D. To reject the words of the apostles is to reject the counsel of God in His spiritual Israel. The early church relied heavily upon the Twelve and their guidance (Ac. 2:42,43; 4:33,35).

III. THE ISRAEL OF GOD IS A SOLDIER FOR DOING GOOD.

- A. Scripture text: Eph. 6:13-17.
- B. The word Israel is a compound term meaning "soldier of God." "Isra" means soldier and "el" is God.
- C. Since we are not physical Israel we do not fight today with real weapons of war, but have an entirely new set of armor and weaponry. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual foes (Jn. 18:36; 2Tim. 2:4).

IV. THE ISRAEL OF GOD IS NOT TO BE HYPOCRITICAL.

- A. Scripture text: Rom. 2:17-29.
- B. Before we can successfully teach others we must teach ourselves and way of God. We must be striving daily to live acceptably (Mt. 7:1-4).
- C. Hypocrisy is a grievous sin because it causes us to be lost and those to whom we come in contact. Hypocrisy kills evangelism. The old saying, "do as I say and not as I do" is only humorous at best. To live as hypocrites is in no way a reflection of the character of God.
- D. Let your 'yes' be yes and your 'no' be no (Mt. 5:37).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. What is the Israel of God? It is the church.
- B. What have learned about the Israel of God?:
 - 1. It is the children of promise by grace and faith.
 - 2. It is lead by the apostles and their teachings.
 - 3. It is God's soldiers for doing good.

- 4. It is not hypocritical in speech or life.
- C. We invite you to become a part of this great nation this morning. Will you come and be part of this chosen race (1Pet. 2:9)?
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.