

Galatians 6

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- 1 ¶ *Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.*
- 2 *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*
- 3 *For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.*
- 4 *But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.*
- 5 *For each one shall bear his own load.*
- 6 *Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.*
- 7 *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*
- 8 *For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*
- 9 *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*
- 10 *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

1-2: What are 3 ways believers are to respond when another believer is overtaken in a trespass?

1) v1; "Those who are spiritual are to restore in a spirit of gentleness"

NOTE: Those who are NOT spiritual ought to submit to the wisdom of the spiritual

2) v1; "Consider yourself lest you also be tempted"

IOW: Be careful that you not likewise become overtaken in a trespass

Mt 7:5 "Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

3) v2; "Bear one another's burdens"

IOW: The cause of the trespass may be from being overburdened

Ex: Stealing, for lack of money; Drunkenness, for depressed circumstances; Etc

NOTE: Doing this "fulfill(s) the law of Christ" (ie love)

3: What can happen when a believer "thinks himself to be something"?

He becomes deceived, because "he is nothing"

4: What ought believers to do instead?

"Let each one examine his own work"

"Rejoicing in himself" – because it's the work he has done in service to the Lord

"Not in another" – not finding joy in comparisons and contrasts with other believers

5: What is necessary of believers?

"Each one shall bear his own load"

IOW: Every believer is responsible to carry that which the Lord has given him

NOTE: It doesn't matter if the loads are different!

Mt 25:21 "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

6: How are believers to serve one another with regard to the teaching of God's word?

"Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches"

IOW: The students ought to share "good things" with those who teach

A freewill love offering from the student... without demand from the teacher

7: How could a believer be deceived and mock God with regard to supporting and giving to other believers?

ETERNAL IMPL: Earthly gifts invested bear fruit in heaven

PRACTICAL IMPL: Supporting others results in personal & church growth/fruit, proportional to gift

WHEREAS: Unsupported work ceases or moves elsewhere EX: Good radio station

8: How are believer instructed to invest their resources?

Don't "sow to the flesh (and reap corruption)", but "sow to the Spirit (and reap everlasting life)"

NOTE: Resources = time, work, money, strength, ability, etc

NOTE: The fruit is contrasting – IOW: corruption (spoiled, finite) vs everlasting life

9: With what attitude are believers to invest their resources?

1) Do not "grow(ing) weary while doing good" – IOW: It's a good thing, so don't grow weary

2) Knowing "in due season we shall reap" – IOW: It'll bear fruit eventually

3) Do not "lose heart" – IOW: "Losing heart" derails the whole process

EX: re-tilling, uprooting, or abandoning

10: What are believers to do upon every opportunity?

"Do good to all"... "especially to those... of faith"

NOTE: I believe I've missed more opportunities than I've caught!

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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.

11: For what reason would Paul write largely, and why do you believe he added this?

1) Wrote Largely: Perhaps he had trouble with his sight

Ga 4:15 What then was the blessing you enjoyed? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me.

2) With My Own Hand: To emphasize his authorship and, subsequently, the authority of the letter

12: What does it mean to “make a good showing in the flesh”?

To appear righteous (or “good”) on any plane apart from the grace of God

What are the 2 goals of those who “desire to make a good showing in the flesh”?

1) “Compel you to be circumcised”, like them – IOW: becoming legalistic & works oriented, under them

2) To “not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ” – IOW: they leave grace for fear of persecution

NOTE: Their consequence is, then, eternal persecution

13: What 2 truths are pointed out regarding those of the circumcision?

1) They don’t keep the law either

2) They desire to boast of (their influence/control over) another’s flesh

14: What is Paul’s perspective on boasting?

“God forbid... except in the cross!”

What does Jesus Christ, the world, and Paul have in common?

The cross/crucifixion – IOW: Our collective works of the flesh are joined together and crucified w/Jesus

15: In what manner are believers associated to Christ Jesus?

Only by means of being “a new creation”; things of the flesh avail nothing

2Co 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

16: What is “the rule” by which believers are to walk, and what are its benefits?

1) From v15: According to the new creation of the Spirit (being born-again), not by the flesh

2) Benefits: Peace and mercy upon them and the Israel of God (ie the Body, descendants of faith)

17: For what reason was Paul troubled, and what was his defense?

Troubled: For not preaching circumcision (works), for which he’s now given his explanation

Defense: Marks upon his body revealed he preached the cross, not works, and suffered persecution

18: What is Paul’s main theme in this verse and the letter to the Galatians?

“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ”

Overview

From this chapter: Which verse leaves the greatest impression, and why?