

LESSON: THE GOSPEL IN ACTION — May 26, 2019

INTRODUCTION:

Chapter 5:22-26 Paul begins with the fruit of the Spirit after just specifying the works of the flesh. Now, the believer is to bear fruit; character traits that display that we are bearing God's nature. The source is the Holy Spirit and the purpose is to stand strongly against fleshly works. Therefore, if you are Christ's product, your flesh will be crucified with Christ. The affections and lusts will be crucified because you no longer live in the flesh but live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit. This position we have in Christ is living in line with and following the Spirit's lead so fruit can be produced. When challenges come we will not be tempted to be conceited, challenging another or envy another.

I. CHRISTIAN COMPASSION GALATIANS 6:1-5

6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Paul calls these men **brethren** meaning members of the same spiritual family; an expression of kindness. A hypothetical question comes before them **...if a man be overtaken** — sudden temptation seized him unaware before one can escape; apprehended, taken by surprise. **...in a fault**, — a trespass; a lapse or deviation from the truth and uprightness. He tells them **...ye which are spiritual**, — those who have learned to walk by, are living by, and are exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit. **...restore such an one** — bring into line; to mend; to strengthen. **...in the spirit of meekness**; — a fruit of the Spirit; it is tender consideration and forbearance. **...considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted**— they are to take care that they themselves are not tempted.

For further explanation: This is a person who is just like the rest of us; that is, he has desires, passions, and urges just like us. He walks and lives in the flesh just like we do; a true Christian brother can be overtaken by sin. When this happens, the point is how do you approach this brother? The brother will be very sensitive and perhaps embarrassed and easily shamed. He could also feel that he would be unwelcomed. Therefore, unless he is approached in the right spirit, he could be lost to the kingdom forever.

1. **First, let the spiritual believers** handle the matter. Spiritual believers are those who walk in the Spirit. How can the church tell if a believer is spiritual?—
 - a. Does the believer bear the fruit of the Spirit? (Gal.5:22-23).
 - b. Does the believer live a crucified life with Christ? — self-denying life?
 - c. Does the believer walk in the Spirit that is consistent with his position in Christ? (Gal.5:25).
 - d. Does the believer walk free from super-spirituality and envy, pride, jealousy, arrogance, and selfishness? (Gal.5:26).
2. **Second, approach the brother in a spirit of meekness** . Too often what is displayed is a spirit of...
 - a. hardness b. indifference c. harshness d. rejection e. criticism f. rumor etc.
 Scripture is saying, approach the brother in meekness—gentle, tender, warm, loving, and a caring manner.
3. **Third, consider yourself** , for you too, can be tempted and overtaken by sin (1Cor.10:13). The word **"consider"** means to look to oneself, to think about oneself, and to give attention to oneself. Don't open the door to Satan.

Restoration is not easy because you are trying to mend back what has been broken in a fragile life. However, when truth comes in, God delivers. You speak the truth in love; God delivers the truth in love as they receive by faith.

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE



6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

4. **Fourth, bear one another's burden.** We cannot bear the sins of men, but we can bear the burdens of each other; for we all suffer under the weight of sin. "*Burdens*" are an overload which we can lighten, a weight too heavy for the individual and capable of being shared with others of the fellowship. Lend a helping hand by lifting heavy loads. ¹"*The law of Christ*" is Jesus' "**New**" Commandment: "*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another*" Jh.13:34. "*The law of Christ*" is the law of ministry and love. This is a touchy subject. But sometimes when we find ourselves being the one who has fallen, it's a hard thing to allow others to help. But it's the way of Jesus. As we bear one another's burdens, we are fulfilling the simple law of Christ: be compassionate – encourage – pray – forgive – being warm and tender – all in love.

6:3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

5. **Fifth, confess your nothingness.** Christ came to save nothings, that is, sinners whether they know it or not. **The point is this:** no person is better than any other person, not in righteousness and godliness. All men stand before God as sinners. He has to come by Jesus Christ and His righteousness alone. Therefore, there is absolutely no place among God's people for spiritual pride or snobbishness, or super-spirituality. To be proud is to be blind. He has to approach Christ just like the erring brother.

6:4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

6. **Sixth, examine your own work.** The word "*work*" refers more to conduct and behavior than to employment. Every man is to keep busy examining his own work and life; no man is exempt. The flesh lusts... for acceptance, for recognition, for position, for honor, for compensation, for approval etc. In fact, so much temptation swirls around us, if we lower our guard to examine and judge others, we are immediately overcome by sin ourselves. If a man's work stands the test, there he can rejoice in it alone, not because he is superior to another but that his conduct and behavior remained unsoiled and clean.

6:5 For every man shall bear his own burden.

7. **Seventh, realize your own responsibility.** This is to warn every believer that he has his own burdens, his own weight of faults and sins to bear. It is these that he is to be carrying, looking after, examining, and judging. He can never overcome them unless he gets his eyes off the failure of others and concentrates on the burdens of his own failure. He's responsible to the Lord for what he has done.

II. CHRISTIAN WORKS GALATIANS 6:6-10

6:6 Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. Remember, that every believer is a student who sits at the feet of God whether they are ministers or bible teachers. This verse can show us two things:

1. When you've been blessed with someone's teaching, communicate it by sharing it with others! The learner has a responsibility to the teacher just as the teacher has a responsibility to the learner—spreading it.
2. When you've been blessed with someone's teaching, be a partner with those that teach by sharing and entering into fellowship financially. The Christian community was expected to support these gifted teachers. It is easy to receive the benefit of good bible teaching and take our spiritual teachers for granted, ignoring their financial and physical needs. We should care for them, not grudgingly or reluctantly, but with a generous spirit, showing honor and appreciation for their service (1Tim.5:17-18).

6:7 Be not deceived: God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

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¹ <http://www.calvaryfullerton.org/Bstudy/48%20Gal/1995/48GAL06A.htm>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE



Stop being led astray into error. A person can be deceived about facing the judgment of God. The word "**deceived**" (*planasthe*) means to be led astray. Some Galatians were being led astray in this matter. They were failing to share in the ministry of Paul, becoming critics instead of supporters. And note what attacking the teacher of God equals: it equals mocking God. The word "**mocked**" (*mukterizetai*) means to turn one's nose up at God. By rejecting God's minister, the teacher whom God had sent to them, the Galatians were rejecting God. God will not be mocked also when you substitute something else in the place of the cross! Whatever a man sows toward his teacher, he reaps. When you sow in the right way, you reap blessings. It is a principle of cause and effect. The reason is the outcome—flesh vs Spirit.

6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption:— If one does not listen to the teacher's warning about the lusts of the flesh, he shall reap the lusts of the flesh. He will be overtaken by the appeal, the pull, cravings, passion, and lust; and the list could go on and on. Every action has results. Planting to please your own desires reaps a crop of sorrow and evil. **...but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.** If one listens to the teacher's exhortations about the salvation that is in God's Son and the life God expects him to live, he shall reap the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God will actually enter his life and take up residence there. The Spirit will implant the divine nature of God within the heart of the believer, that divine nature shall live now and forever. Planting to please God will reap everlasting life. It is wise to know the cause and effect to actions taken. Think it through!

6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. Stop getting discouraged and tired of doing good, i.e., sowing to the Spirit. The word "*weary*" means to retreat in battle, to give up the fight. The believer or student must be constant, steadfast, and persevering, just as he is taught to be by his teacher. He must not withdraw or slack up in serving the Lord Jesus Christ. The day of reaping is coming. You are on God's timetable. It is unpredictable, but it inevitably comes. We need to continue to plant, sow, and water, not with the idea that we can make it grow but with the sure understanding that what we sow, God can make grow. God will reward the believer who faints not. God knows when there is a time of rest for the body but the spirit of man is always in tune holding on to God's Spirit.

6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. Opportunities come up to serve and therefore we must not miss those times of ministering. ²Every opportunity we have is an appointment arranged by God. The word "*opportunity*" comes from the Greek word *kairos*, which is sometimes translated: "*time*." *Kairos* means: "*a measure of time, a fixed and definite time, opportune or seasonable time, or the right time*." While waiting for our reward, we should be ready to extend our service and faith to all men in Christian love, especially, and always meet the needs (physical, spiritual, or financial) of our Christian family (the household of faith).

SUMMARY:

Paul gives the following instructions in helping the person who has fallen:

1. **Who does it?** - "*You who are spiritual*" (6:1). This refers to those who have the characteristics found in this "*book*" and not to an office or a person in authority (Gal.5:22-23).
2. **How is it done?** "*In a spirit of gentleness*" (6:1). It is a person who is not harsh but considerate and submissive. At the same time he is willing to engage in straight talk in order to help the person caught in the trespass

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to get back on the right track.

3. **What is the goal?** *"Restore such a one."* (6:1). To bring the person to where he is submissive to the principle of God's Word and once again living an effective life for Christ.

Be sure to obey God's law yourself (6:2). Don't think you are better than others (6:2). ³Paul uses a hypothetical case of a believer who falls into sin. Instead of trying to restore this person, the Legalists will condemn him and try to make himself look good by making this person look bad. He seems to rejoice when this brother falls and often gives the matter wide publicity. The Legalists has an attitude of pride and condemnation and thinks he could never commit such a sin. However, the believer living by grace realizes that no man is immune to falling (6:3). *"Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall"* (1 Cor.10:12). Don't compare yourself with others; examine your work, not another (6:4). Be sure to carry your own load by being responsible (6:5). (6:1-5).

Very simply, communicate and share in all good things in the ministry of those who teach (6:6). ⁴This portion of scripture is often referred to as **"the law of the harvest"**, **"the law of cause and effect"** or **"the sowing and reaping principle."** If certain things are done, other things will occur. He starts off by saying that just as the teacher shares spiritual treasures, those who are taught need to share material treasures (6:6). Paul wanted the Galatians believers to feel a responsibility in supporting anyone who was helping them grow spiritually. It is true that the Apostle Paul earned his own living because he did not want to become a stumbling block to the unsaved (1Cor.9), but he taught that spiritual leaders should be supported by the gifts of God's people. Jesus taught **"The laborer is worthy of his hire."** It would certainly be a surprise if you planted corn and a squash came up. It is a natural thing to reap what you sow; this is true in many areas of your life. If you gossip about your friends you will lose their friendship. If you plant to reap your own desires you will probably reap a crop of sorrows. We can use our finances to either promote the flesh or the Spirit for the glory of the Lord. Sowing our money to the flesh will bring a *harvest* of corruption, but sowing to the Spirit will produce eternal dividends. It is like sowing seeds in the soil of the flesh or the soil of the Spirit (6:7-8). However once we have finished sowing we cannot change the *harvest*. If we are not careful much of our seed will be wasted on carnal things that can never bring glory to God. Also we will reap in proportion to what we have sown and thereby **"In due season we shall reap if we faint not"** (6:9). Opportunities come up to serve, and therefore we must not miss those times of ministering. Loving concern will do more to win a person to Christ than the most carefully articulated argument (6:10). (6:6-10).

APPLICATION:

Bearing another's burden takes effort and not gossip. As God lead you be gentle and caring as you minister to them. The most valuable thing I possess is my time so it is very important how I invest it. I need to constantly be asking myself the following question: Is what I am doing or where I am spending my money going to bring eternal dividends?

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³ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/galatians-61/>

⁴ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/galatians-66/>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>