

Gal 6:6-18

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.

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

“Taught”

- act of giving instruction,
- usually oral instruction.

The Galatians

- had already received oral instruction in
- the word of God.

“Share” - to share with others, to communicate, to distribute, or to partake.

It is a biblical principle that we the believer support the church.

Is that what Paul is saying here? Maybe!

The Judaizers were trying to gouge the Galatian churches for money.

So, it seems to me that Paul would not go from what he'd been teaching them to suddenly asking them for money.

It's possible given what he'd been teaching,

- that he is telling the restored to share with the teachers what the Lord did for them.

Give God the glory as we should always do!

So what does the restored brother do? He shares the good news.

James 5:20

20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

It's good news when a multitude of sins are forgiven.

Jesus performed many miracles, but most significant of all, He Himself was raised from the dead.

Being restored to the Lord is great news!

7 Do not be deceived,
The Greek word for “deceive” is the English word “planet.” It means, “don’t be misled, you can’t fool God;”

The word is often used of deceivers,
it’s also used of self-deception.

Examples of self-deception would be a non-believer doing good deeds for others and thinking he’s fine since he performed a good deed.

Or how about this, I go to church on Sunday,
I’ve fulfilled my duty for the week.

That person is self-deceived.

Hosea 8:7, God says that Israel planted wind and would harvest a whirlwind.

The “wind” is sowing something worthless and foolish whereas the whirlwind refers to judgement.
(Job 7:7; Proverbs 11:29; and Ecclesiastes 1:14, 17),

God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.
Mock: to deride, to ridicule.

In the context here it means that God will not let Himself be mocked.

For whatever a man sows: (To sow is to plant as in planting seed) 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.

The basic principle throughout scripture.

- Is, you reap what you sow most likely referencing Gal 6:7 and 2 Cor 9:6.

Some OT scriptures refer to the same principle of reaping and sowing, (Prov 22:8, Prov 1:31 and Hos 10:13.

Verse 9: don’t grow weary while doing good.

You may not see the return of your investment immediately.

But the more you sow, the more harvest you will see in return.

The same principle applies to a person sowing to the flesh.

You feed the flesh,
you reap corruption.

Two examples, negative and a positive of reaping what you sow:

Story of Joseph from the book of Genesis.

- He was Jacob's favorite son.
- brothers were jealous of him
- sold him as a slave
- lied to their father
- that Joseph was dead.

They got rid of their brother,

- hoping to never deal with him again.

But years later Joseph had risen to a position of power in Egypt.

- Joseph's family now struggling for survival.
- Jacob sends his sons except for Benjamin
- to purchase supplies

Didn't realize they'd have to get supplies from Joseph.

We know the story,

- they didn't recognize Joseph,
- Joseph tests them to see if they've changed
- Joseph demands that Benjamin travels with the brothers on the next visit

Their evil deed was now catching up to them.

You see, we may do things and think we are getting away with it,

- but it will eventually catch up to us.

Paul says, "Do not be deceived, God cannot be mocked."

Then Paul says:

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.

In due season: Were the Galatians losing heart thinking they'd been sowing and hadn't reaped anything, therefore they turned to the Judaizers! Maybe!

That's the tendency of people, to give up! We need endurance!

Ecc 3 Everything has a time. And there is a time to plant and a time to pluck what is planted.

It may seem at times that things aren't going the way we think they should,

We sometimes go thru seasons

- in order for the Lord to mature us.

10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

The exhortation isn't to simply do good when the opportunity presents itself, but to look for the opportunities.

Glory Only in the Cross

Hey Galatians, compare grace with the law.

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.

Paul dictated his letters.

At the end of 2nd Thess he says:

2 Thess 3:17-18

17 The salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle; so I write. 18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Now we see from verse 11 on, Paul writes the rest of this letter to the Galatians.

11 See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!

- I believe he's letting his readers know
- that he had poor eyesight.

Many commentators believe that Paul had poor vision.

- See Acts 14,

So what is Paul's point in writing with large letters:

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.

This word “compel” conveys the idea of putting pressure on someone thru a means of threats or force or persuasion.

Paul was all too familiar with threats and persuasion

- both as a believer and as a non-believer.

When he stood before King Agrippa and gave his testimony for the things of which he stood in opposition to Jesus, he said,

Acts 26:10-11

10 This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. 11 And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

Here in verse 11 of acts and in verse 12 of Galatians we see the verb “compel.”

Both are in the present continuous tense meaning that

- he continued putting the pressure
- by means of threats, force or persuasion

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.

This is a great example of “do as I say, not as I do.”

Paul wants them to remember that it was the Judaizers

- that were trying to make them follow the law
- with all of the strict rules and regulations.

We can only be saved thru grace

- and that's what Paul wanted the Galatians churches to understand.

Isa 64:6

6 But we are all like an unclean thing,
And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags;
We all fade as a leaf,
And our iniquities, like the wind,

Have taken us away.

- The world believes they can get to heaven thru one of the many roads leading there, well there is only one way, thru Jesus!!!

Paul wanted the Galatians to remember that the emphasis is on the inward,

- not on the outward,

In John 3 Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again otherwise he couldn't see the kingdom of God. Then Nicodemus said, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

Nicodemus was thinking outward, the flesh, Jesus was speaking of the inward.

The Judaizers were much like their predecessors the Pharisees:

Jesus sat for dinner with a Pharisee (Luke 11:38) the Pharisee marveled that Jesus didn't first wash His hands.

Jesus responded that the Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean, but their inward part is full of greed and wickedness.

The Judaizers weren't interested in the people themselves, they were interested in numbers. Paul said, "they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh."

Warren Wiersbe says: We want to see more people sharing in our ministries, not so that we can count people, but because people count.

Blessing and a Plea

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.

John Stott elaborates on Paul's crucifixion image:

"Previously we were desperately anxious to be in favor with the world. But now that we have seen ourselves as sinners and Christ crucified as our sin-bearer, we do not care what the world thinks or says of us or does to us."

The more we focus on the cross, the less we will focus on our own accomplishments.

When we focus on Jesus and what He did for us, the less we will be invested in this world.

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.