

6/28/98

Galatians 6

Chapter six finalizes the practical section of this epistle.

All that Paul is going to say is based on the fruit of the Spirit, agape love!

1. Love develops character.
2. Love is the motive behind the Gifts.
3. Love is why we equip others for service.
4. Love is the greatest of the three virtues, faith, hope and love!

Herein is the acid test of Christianity!!!

6:1-5 The command of love.

6:1 The restoration of a sinning **brother or sister.**

- I) The reality is stated, “If a man be overtaken in a trespass.”
 - a) Sin nature is ever present till the day we die.
 - * If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 1Jn. 1:8
 - b) The word trespass “paraptoma” means failure that comes upon a person by suddenness and unawares.

- c) This is made more clear by the word overtaken “problambano” means a falling aside or lapse from truth, with the idea of to surprise, unaware in contrast to willful and deliberate sin.
- 2) The responsible party are said to be those who are spiritual.
 - a) Israel’s shepherds had failed in this. Ezk. 34:1-4
 - b) Jesus demonstrated this restoration with the woman caught in adultery. Jn. 8:5-11
 - c) The word restore is a medical term, to remove a growth by surgery or set a broken bone, also used for mending nets.
- 3) The attitude is most important, in the spirit of gentleness, meekness or power under control, the seventh manifestation of the Fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:23
- 4) The perspective that will help is considering ourselves lest we also be tempted.
 - a) The word considering means to look attentively for a right judgment of myself.
 - b) I am vulnerable to the very sin they have failed in!
 - * He that thinks he stands, take heed... 1Cor. 10:12

- c) I must be careful to take out the beam out of my own eye before I attempt to remove the sliver out of my brothers eye. Matt. 7:1-5

* The young man at Corinth is a good example. 1Cor. 5:5; 2Cor. 2:6-11

6:2 The mutual responsibility of all Christians.

- 1) To bear one another's burdens.
 - a) The word "bear" means to bear what is burdensome and help is needed.
 - b) When one members suffers we all...
1Cor. 12:26
 - c) We are to ear the weakness of others.
Rom. 15:1-3
 - d) God comforts us, so we can comfort others. 2Cor. 1:3-6
- 2) To fulfill the law of Christ.
 - a) The royal law. Ja. 2:8
 - b) The fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22; 1Cor. 13:1-8a
 - c) If we are going to burden ourselves, lets do it by bearing others burdens!

6:3 Self deception comes through self love.

- 1) The mistake is in thinking he is something when in fact he is nothing.
- 2) The outcome is deception of self.

- a) He that think he knows something the way he ought knows nothing. 1Cor. 8:2

- b) He is operating in the works of the flesh. Gal. 5:19-21, 26

6:4 Self examination of one's work.

- 1) To the motive under which it was done.
- 2) To have God reveal or confirm the work.
- 3) To rejoice in the obedience in Christ.
- 4) To always measure the work by Christ and not other men's.

* Don't compare yourself to others, but to the rule or standard of God for you, lest you be unwise. 2Cor. 10:12-13; 1Cor. 11:28

6:5 The personal responsibility of every believer.

- 1) To bear the weight of one's life as Christ has called us.
 - a) Some things we have to go through alone, disappointments, consequences, sufferings, judgment before God, etc.
 - b) Other things are just normal things of life which will also cause us to grow and be transformed in the image of Christ.
- c) The word bear "phortion" is a common word for a soldier's pack on a march, we are soldiers of Christ.

- 2) Verse two is a heavy burden others can help in while this one is our own responsibility alone.

6:6-10 The generosity of love or lack of it.

6:6 Generosity toward the teacher of the word.

- 1) The theme is still love in action, the fruit of the Spirit.
- 2) The imparting of one's goods and finances to those who taught is what is meant.
 - * The word share "koinoneo" means partnership or participation.
 - a) It was Scriptural. Deut. 25:4; 1Cor. 9:1-18; 1Tim. 5:17-18; "Lk. 10:7; 1Cor. 9:14"
 - b) It is to be done in love and appreciation as unto the Lord, the way the Thessalonians did to Paul. Phil. 4:15
 - c) Finances seem to be the focus, evidence of a mature loving believer!

6:7-8 The principles of the flesh and Spirit are absolute.

- 1) To think that one can escape the reaping of one's sowing is a two-fold mistake. vs. 7
 - a) To deceive oneself.

* Stop deceiving yourselves literally!

b) To mock God.

* To mock means to turn up the nose.

c) The tense is the present participle, "whatever a man keeps on sowing"

* This principle can not be ignore or sneer at and is found throughout the Scriptures

2) To sow to the flesh will result in reaping to the flesh corruption and to the Spirit everlasting life.

a) The prophet Hosea declared concerning the golden calf in Samaria, "They have sown to the wind and they shall reap the whirlwind." Hos. 8:7

b) The cost of a flesh life.

1) Refusal to restore a sinning brother

2) Refusal to bear one another's burden.

3) Refusal to think soberly about oneself.

4) Refusal to examine one's own works.

5) Refusal to bear one's own load.

6) Refusal to communicate of one's material things.

3) Refusal to not mock God and sow to the flesh.

* All of this will lead us to reap a life of the flesh and misery!

6:9 The exhortation to ongoing yielding to the Fruit of the Spirit.

- 1) Let us not grow weary in well doing.
 - * The word weary means to lose heart and to lose heart means to relax or loosen up and be tempted to ease off because of prolonged effort.
- 2) The promise is that we will reap if we not lose heart. 1Cor. 15:58; 2Cor. 4:1, 16-18
 - * The phrase “due season” refers to appropriate time God has set. Ps. 1; Ja. 5:7-8

6:10 The conclusion is two-fold.

- 1) As we have opportunity, let us do good to all, believer and non believer.
 - a) The word opportunity “kairos” refers to a seasonal time, a window time if you will.
 - b) These opportunities that God will open up and those that well pose themselves in circumstances and situations.
 - c) We should be also looking for opportunities.
- 2) Especially to those that are of the household of faith.
 - a) The family of God.
 - b) The corporate body where we attend.
 - c) The believers we are most familiar with.

6:11-15 The love of Paul for Christ.

6:11 The personal touch of Paul.

- 1) The reference to the large letters has been disputed for years and by many.
- 2) Some say it is in reference to the length of the letter written by his own hand as opposed to dictating it to a secretary or amanuenses.
- 3) Other say it refers to the size of the letter and being evidence to his failing eyes. Gal. 4:15
- 4) Yet others say the largeness of the letter refers to the emphasis Paul gives to call attention to the error of the Judeaizers and is his usual custom of closing the letter with his own hand.
- 5) Some say it is “uncial” 1 inch letters.

6:12 The reason for the Judeaizers outward show of righteousness.

- 1) They are actors outwardly parading their flesh. Matt. 6:1-4
- 2) They compel the gentiles to be circumcised to escape persecution for the cross. 1Cor. 1:20-25

6:13 The true character of the Judeaizers.

- 1) They do not keep the law in heart nor unto perfection.

- 2) They desire converts to boast in order to be admired by others.

6:14 The only basis of Paul's boasting.

- 1) The cross of Christ. 1Cor. 1:29-31; Rom. 1:17
- 2) The world had been crucified to Paul, in other words it had become dead.
 - a) It no longer held the attraction and glamour it once had.
 - b) It was seen for what it was, death and deception.
- 3) The apostle himself had died to the world. Gal. 2:20
 - a) For any form of righteousness before God.
 - b) For any form of lasting satisfaction.
 - c) For all that opposed God.

6:15 The equal standing before God.

- 1) NO ritual of circumcision or non-circumcision could justify man before God. Rom. 2:25-29
- 2) There was no difference before God, Greek, Jew, circumcision, uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond, free. Col. 3:11
- 3) The only thing God honors is the New Creation. 2Cor. 5:17

6:16 The blessing.

- 1) The standard is the rule of the new creation.
 - a) The word walk is as in the previous chapter, to walk in a straight line. Gal. 5:25
 - b) The Spirit. Gal. 5:25-26
- 2) Peace and mercy are the benefits.
- 3) The Israel of God is most likely the Jewish Christians but it is not the Church in Israel's place as so many teach. Rom. 2:29; 4:12; 1Pet. 2:5, 9; Ex. 19:5-6

6:17 Paul strong admonition.

- 1) He did not want to be bothered over these legalistic ensnarments of circumcision which were useless and nonsensical burdens in view of all that Christ had done.
- 2) The marks on his body were the real marks of a Christian for persecution.
 - a) Pagan slaves were branded, religious zealots tattooed themselves as well as soldiers with the name of a deity.
 - b) Slaves and soldiers were branded with their masters name or general
 - c) Paul bore marks of Christ for his sufferings. 1Cor. 4; 2Cor. 6, 11
 - * The word bear is what is burdensome. Col. 1:24

6:16-18 The blessing and benediction.

6:18 Paul closes with the key to their victory, grace.

- 1) Grace is the very theme of the epistle!
- 2) Grace is the source of the Christian life!
- 3) Grace is unmerited favor!
- 4) Grace is the love of God in action!
- 5) Grace is through Jesus Christ!
- 6) Grace is to strengthen and enables our spirit, the real me!