

# Galatians 6:6-18 “Freedom for Good”

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**Thesis:** God has entrusted us with resources of time, talent, and treasure. These resources are to be used to advance the gospel. Using resources to advance the gospel doesn't make you right with God, but is convincing evidence that you are right with Him through faith in Christ.

Since, we have been made right with God through faith we do good for God's glory.

**Subject:** A Christian's resources and responsibilities

**Object:** Keep doing good and glory in the cross

## A. Be Generous and Do Good [6-10]

<sup>6</sup> Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. <sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall

reap if we do not lose heart. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

**Share resources so the Bible is taught [6].** *Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.* Those who receive sound Bible teaching are incredibly blessed, because they can be eternally impacted by understanding the nature and works of God. Those who labor to teach the Bible well, and care for and advance the spiritual needs of a community should be supported by the beneficiaries of that work [1Tim. 5:17, Lu. 10:17, 1Cor. 9:11]. The Greek term *koinonia*, meaning to have in common, is translated *share*. *Good things* relate here primarily to material possessions, but prayer and support to. The early church engaged in “Commonism” the voluntary sharing of resources prompted by the Holy Spirit by people who know Jesus, love others, and want to make Christ known to others [Ac. 2:42-47].

**Share resources to help others know and grow in Christ [7-8]**

*Don't be deceived, God is not mocked [7].* How we use the resources that God has entrusted us with (time, talent, treasure) reflects how we value God. We fool ourselves if we think that we are fooling God. If you say that you love Jesus, but you won't invest your time, talent, and treasure to advance His kingdom you are mocking God and deceiving self. *Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap [7]. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption [8].* If your life is characterized by

selfishness the result is *corruption*. The Greek term was used to describe rotting food. Those who live for this world, with no desire to advance God's kingdom, are wasting their life. *But he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life* [8]. Those who are cultivating spiritual growth in Christ, in their life and the life of others, by the Holy Spirit experience life with God in this life and the life to come or everlasting life.

### Keep doing good and don't be discouraged [9-10]

**<sup>9</sup> And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.**

*Let us not grow weary while doing good* [9], reminds us that it can be easy to become discouraged, disobedient, doubtful, divided, frustrated, and isolated. There are many times that I've been tired *in* the ministry, but I've not become tired *of* the ministry. We are encouraged, *for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart* [9]. In the natural world, seasons pass between planting seed and the harvest. Similarly, in the spiritual realm, God's rewards are certain even if delayed. So, we should *not lose heart* [9]. The Greek term was used in reference to a woman in labor before the birth of a child. The sense is that despite the difficulties the reward will be great and is soon to come [1Cor. 3:8, 15:58]. *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the*

*household of faith* [10]. In light of the importance of sharing our time, talents, and treasure to advance the gospel, and the certain rewards for doing so, *let us do good*. The Greek term is *agathos* and refers to good which benefits others. The phrase *as we have opportunity* is a good reminder that your earthly life is a limited opportunity to do good, advance the gospel, and earn rewards. We are called to do good for all, *especially to those who are of the household of faith*. Thus, we are to prioritize serving and sharing with other believers, and not neglect those who don't know Christ yet. John Wesley observed, "Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

## **B. Glory Only in the Cross [11-15]**

**<sup>11</sup> See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.**

In this section, Paul contrasts his motive, God's glory, and the "Judaizers" who sought glory from man. Paul refers to unusually large letters which may be related to eye problems or simply showing that substance is more important than form. The Judaizers who shared a false gospel told the Galatians that they needed to believe in Christ, be circumcised and adhere to all of the commandments per the Mosaic Law in order to be right with God. The Judaizers were hypocrites because they were unable to adhere to the standard of the Mosaic Law, and their motive for seeking converts was pride. The Judaizers *boasted in the flesh of the Galatians* [13] meaning they took pride in the number of converts. Their motive was self-glory, not God's glory, nor the well-being of the Galatians.

### **Be motivated to bring glory to God (not self).**

Paul, in contrast was motivated to bring glory to God and not self, *but God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ* [14]. Paul told the church at Corinth, "For I determined not to know anything but Jesus Christ and Him crucified" [1Cor.2:2]. Forty-five times in this letter, Paul uses the name of Jesus to clearly remind us that it is all about Jesus, what He has done, and what He is doing through His followers. Thus, there is no reason for us to desire self-glory, praise, accolades, or esteem from people for the good that we do as we share our time, talents, and treasure to advance the gospel. Yes, it is appropriate to express gratitude and affirm those that do good, but their motivation for doing good should not be the accolades. We are to let our light so shine that people see our good works and give glory to God [Matt. 5:16].

Because of what Jesus did on the cross, and the spiritual life He gives, the world's values and pleasures that are opposed to God no longer dominate our thinking or affections, *the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world* [14]. Through faith in Christ and committing to Him, we are set-free from self [2:20], our flesh [5:24], and are thus *new creations* in Christ [15, 2Cor. 5:17]. And we are not made new creations, because of circumcision or any other ritual [15]. The key is to yield to Jesus.

### C. Closing Blessing and Plea [16-18]

**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.**

Paul concludes with a closing blessing, *and as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God* [16]. Those who glory in Jesus' work on the cross, and in response to what God has done: 1. do good to glorify God, 2. experience God's contentment or *peace*, 3. His *mercy* or forgiveness of sin, and 4. the *grace of our Lord Jesus Christ with your spirit* [18]. True blessings indeed!

And Paul makes a plea, *from now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus* [17]. The persecution from Jewish leaders and the Judaizers had taken its toll and Paul

wished that it would end [Cf. 2Cor 11:22-27]. Regardless, he would continue to do good, and glory in the cross.

### Study Guide Qs

*Q1. What are some of the reasons why Jesus' followers struggle to share resources to advance the gospel?*

*Q2. What are some of the ways that you are trying to do good (i.e. serve God by serving others) in this season of your life?*

*Q3. What are some of the challenges you've experienced to keep doing good?*

*Q4. Why can it be challenging to be motivated by God's glory rather than self-glory? How might we overcome those challenges?*

### Digging Deeper

1. Re-read the book of Galatians. What are some of the important truths that you've discovered, and how would you like to apply them to your life?

2. Read: 2Cor. 9:6-8, 1Cor. 16:1-2, Mal. 3:10. What did you learn about sharing financial resources, and how can you apply the lesson to your life?