

X- Demands of the Pure Gospel Galatians 6:1-17

Galatians 6:1-17 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. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. 3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. 4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. 5 For every man shall bear his own burden. 6 Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. 7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. 9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. 10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. 11 Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand. 12 As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. 13 For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh. 14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. 15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. 16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. 17 From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

Exposition of the Text:

The Gospel calls us to live life in the real world. Christ said we are in the world but we are not of the world. The Gospel also makes demands upon us. The word of God is full of exhortations of purity of life and conduct for the Christians. The word says that we are bought with a price and therefore we are not our own but His. The Gospel should and does produce Christian character.

"There is an informality about the passage which relieves the intensity and sharpness of the earlier chapters, and yet Paul does not relent even here in his criticism of the Jewish-Christians agitators in Galatia." 80

We have a tendency to judge our spirituality by the do's and do not's of some sins. A better gauge of our spiritual condition is if we can look past ourselves to others. This is one of the demand that the gospel put on us to live up to. Allow me to offer this outline:

Outline: Demands of The Pure Gospel: Galatians 6:1-17

A- Self Examination: Galatians 6:1 ; Galatians 6:3-4

B- A Ministry of Reconciliation: Galatians 6:1

C- Concern For Others Cares: Galatians 6:2, Galatians 6:4-5

D- An Awareness of Harvest Time: Galatians 6:6-8

E- Doing Good to All Men: Galatians 6:9-10

F- Suffering for Cause of Christ: Galatians 6:12, Galatians 6:17

G- Boasting Only In Cross: Galatians 6:13-16

Paul deals with a hypothetical situation or case here to illustrate the demands of the Gospel. The key to this is, "if."

A- Self Examination: Galatians 6:1 ; Galatians 6:3-4

We are free from the Law but we are a bond slave to Christ to do what is right. The first thing that we seem to do is to judge each other and ourselves by others. We gauge our walk by the walk of others instead of looking at ourselves in light of the gospel and what Christ would have us do. Christ taught us in Mat_7:1-5 about the danger of judging others and the need for self examination. Notice the NASV reading of these verses.

1 Do not judge lest you be judged.

2 "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.

3 "And why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?

4 "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye?

5 " You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Paul said to, "Consider thyself" because if you are not careful you will be guilty of the same thing that you are condemning someone else for. We need to examine ourself and not allow conceit to live within us. Conceit is, "An attitude that breeds intolerance of error in others and causes one to think that he is above failure." 81 We are warned in verse 3 and 4 to not, as a country body would say, "get too big for our britches." We need to constantly step back and look at our own life and the demands of the gospel.

B- A Ministry of Reconciliation: Galatians 6:1

The word restore here is *katartizete*, "a word used in secular Greek for setting broken bones and in the NT for mending fishing nets." 82 One aspect of the ministry that we are called is a ministry of reconciliation. 2Co_5:18 says God has given us a, "Ministry of reconciliation."

Reconciliation has three basic aspects as I see it. First there is the reconciliation of man to God that we preach and witness to facilitate. Second, we have the reconciliation of man to man in forgiveness, and third the reconciliation of a wayward saint back into the fellowship.

We are to not only seek to reconcile the world to God by Christ but because we have been forgiven we must forgive and be reconciled to each other. We must also be quick to reconcile a wayward brother who repents.

Notice that it says that the restoring of a brother who has sinned is not for a weak brother but, "ye which are spiritual" or those who are Spirit lead and can lay aside self. This is a very difficult thing to do. A friend of mine was wise when he said, "you love them a lot, rebuke them a little, love them a lot and rebuke them a little." Reconciliation of a wayward brother is a touchy matter that requires the leadership of the Spirit.

C- Concern For Others Cares: Galatians 6:2, Galatians 6:4-5

The Judaizers were not interested in bearing the burdens of the Galatians. They wanted to add additional burdens to them as a matter of fact. (See Mat_23:4 .)

Paul is saying to us that the Gospel demands that we be concerned for the hurts of others. These two verses are seen by unbelievers as a contradiction in the word of God. They seem to say the opposite of each other do they not? Verse 2 says to bear one another's burdens and verse 5 says to bear our own burdens. This apparent contradiction is not one at all when we understand

that these two words translated "burdens" are two different words in the Greek. In fact, "there are eleven different words that are translated by our one English word burden." 83

The word in verse 2 is *baros* which, "denotes a weight, anything pressing on one physically, or that makes a demand on one's resources, whether material, or spiritual, or religious." 84 This could be infirmity, a weakness, a pressure, a tension or grief.

The word in verse 5 is *phortion*. This is something to be borne. This speaks of a ship's cargo. J.B. Phillips translates this, "For every man must 'shoulder his own pack.'" There are things that come into our life that we simply must bear alone. An illness, as much as we would take it for a loved one, cannot be borne by two. We also must carry the burden of dying alone. No one can die for someone else. This word also speaks of the discipline of bearing our burden for Christ.

The teaching is plain when both words are understood. We must in response to the Gospel's demands help our brothers and sisters with those things possible and at the same time realize that there are things that only they and we must bear alone.

D- An Awareness of Harvest Time: Galatians 6:6-8

The first thing that we need to realize is that the relationship we have to the material says a lot about our relationship to the spiritual. Paul teaches in verse 6 that those who had shared with the Galatians in the spiritual should also share in the material. Jesus taught in Luk_10:7 that, "the workman is worthy of his hire." Paul also addresses this in 1Co_9:11-14. The question is why does God want us to share in this way. There is a greater principle that underlies this. He wants us to give to receive the greater blessing. You have heard this paraphrase, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Paul goes on to teach in verses 7-8 that the law of the harvest is to be applied here. Money sown to the flesh will only throw it away but when applied to the spiritual harvest it will last. We only get to keep what we send ahead anyway.

There is also one other thing that I dare not mention here and that is the judgment seat of Christ. We as believers will stand at the judgment seat of Christ. It says in 2Co_5:10, "for we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." We also need to consider 1Co_3:12-15 which says, "Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." We must realize that the gospel demands we live in the awareness that the harvest day or judgment is coming.

E- Doing Good to All Men: Galatians 6:9-10

These verses continue the harvest and reward thoughts of the previous verses. We are told to, "do good unto all men" especially our brothers and sisters in Christ. 1Jo_3:17 says, "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?"

The job of taking care of each other has been given over to our government. The government's social programs have paralyzed our nation and in some ways robbed us of the urgency of caring for each other. The gospel demands that we, when we have opportunity to do so, share and help each other.

F- Suffering for Cause of Christ: Galatians 6:12, Galatians 6:17

Paul again states a thought that we explored in an earlier session. The Judaizers avoided the persecution of the cross by demanding circumcision of the flesh. Those who would live godly however can expect to be persecuted. The gospel demand that we be willing to suffer for the cause of Christ. The Judaizers whole purpose was to win converts so they could brag about them. (See verse 12a.) Paul again points out in verse 17 his suffering for the cause of Christ.

G- Boasting Only In Cross: Galatians 6:13-16

The Judaizers wanted to glory in the flesh and in circumcision. Paul boasted in the risen Lord and the marks of His suffering. He realized that there was not anything that he had done that was worthy of boasting but what Christ has done is boast worthy. Paul keeps returning to the cross and it is the central focal point of the gospel. The sacrificial death of Christ on the cross is our glory. Again notice the verse in Rom_1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation..." The Judaizers were ashamed of the cross but Paul saw it as our hope.