

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – **Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com** For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com/ Click on “Bible Studies” on the right side. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

INTRODUCTION TO GALATIANS -- JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH:

After Paul’s dramatic conversion on the Damascus Road, converting him from the chief resistor and persecutor of the early church to one recognizing that in his religious zeal he had actually become a persecutor of the Messiah, he became God’s messenger to the Gentiles. **Oh how he preached the gospel – “I preach nothing but Christ and Him crucified! (1Co 2:2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.)** That salvation is through and only through the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross. Not Christ plus anything else at all!

For the Judaizers had come into Galatia and began spreading a perversion to the gospel message that for one to be saved they had to believe in Jesus Christ AND to be circumcised and to keep the dietary laws and to keep the law of Moses. Paul sees these false teachers as poisoning the believers. He looks on them as kidnappers of the true gospel position of being saved by grace and grace alone. He looks upon their false teachers committing the most horrible thing of taking people away from the one and only pure and true stream of eternal life! So here is addressing their foolishness of turning away for grace!

Thankfully in Paul’s responding to this awful situation, which is still prevalent in the church today, that of false teachers, **the Book of Galatians is such a source of truth and revealing that justification is through faith in what Jesus Christ has done and in this faith alone!**

Habakkuk wrote - Hab 2:4 "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith. In Galatians, Paul repeats this verse in chapter 3:11 “But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

In chapters 1 and 2, Paul wrote of his personal experience with grace.

Chapters 3 and 4 address Paul’s doctrinal instruction about grace. **Chapters 5 and 6 give practical application of grace.** It’s a fabulous book—Paul’s manifesto on the absolute necessity of standing in liberty and his glorious defense of the gospel of grace.

Chapter Six

This final chapter of Galatians brings us to the third step in this practical section of sanctification by the Spirit. We have seen that **being saved by faith** and living **by law (the legalists)** perpetrates falling from grace. Also we have seen that being saved by faith and walking in the Spirit produces fruit of the Spirit. In short, we have seen what I means to walk in the Spirit. It is something we are to begin and though we may fail, we are to keep at it. Now in this chapter we will see how the fruit of the Spirit will work out in our lives. **Each incident in this chapter can be better understood by comparing the reaction to each situation by the legalists as compared to the spiritual – those walking in the spirit.** It is a life of liberty, not bondage (Gal_5:1-15), and one that is lived in the Spirit, not in the flesh (Gal_5:16-26).

I. Others, Not Self (Gal_6:1-10)

There is a law that the believer obeys; it is the law of love in Christ. If we are walking in the Spirit, we will not use our liberty in Christ for selfish purposes; we will allow the Spirit to work through us to help others. “Others” is the great Gospel word!

A. Spiritual help (Gal_6:1-5).

If we are spiritual (walking in the Spirit, led by the Spirit, bearing fruit through the Spirit), we will seek to restore the fallen one. We are to bear each other’s burdens, but we must also bear our own burdens. See Paul’s words to the Galatians in Gal_6:1-5.

B. Material help (Gal_6:6-10).

The believer who listens to the Word should share material blessings with those who teach

II. God’s Glory, Not Man’s Approval (Gal_6:11-18)

To the very end of the letter, Paul has grace in mind. The Christian who depends on grace, through the Spirit, will always bring glory to God; the legalist who “practices religion” will earn only the approval of men.

With one sweep of the pen, Paul brushes away these legalistic troublemakers. “Your false teachers are marked with circumcision,” he writes, “but I have on my body the marks [brands] of Jesus Christ.” This does not mean Paul had five wounds on his body similar to Christ’s wounds; it means rather that he had scars on his body to prove that he bore reproach for the cross of Christ. In Paul’s day, men branded soldiers, slaves, and people who dedicated themselves to a god. Paul was Christ’s soldier, slave, and devoted follower.

What a wonderful benediction: “*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit!*” (Gal_6:18)

So, Paul comes to the end of his letter; and he closes just the way he began: GRACE! Not “the Law of Moses,” **but THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST! No more need be said, because that says it all.**

Wonderful Grace of Jesus – Haldor Lillenas – Billy Graham Crusade Choir

*Wonderful Grace of Jesus, greater than all my sin;
How shall my tongue describe it,
Where shall its praise begin?
Taking away my burden, setting my spirit free;
O the Wonderful Grace of Jesus reaches me!*

Refrain

*Wonderful the matchless Grace of Jesus,
(the matchless Grace of Jesus,)
Deeper than the mighty rolling sea;
(the rolling sea;)
Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain,
All sufficient Grace for even me
Broader than the scope of my transgressions,
sing it!
Greater far than all my sin and shame
my sin and shame,
O magnify the precious name of Jesus,
PRAISE HIS NAME!*

*Wonderful Grace of Jesus, reaching the most defiled;
By its transforming power, Making me God's dear child,
Purchasing peace and Heaven, for all eternity;
And the Wonderful Grace of Jesus, reaches me! Refrain*

GALATIANS CHAPTER 6 – Bear and Share the Burdens; Be Generous and Do Good; Glory Only in the Cross; Blessing and a Plea

OBSERVATION

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

GALATIANS CHAPTER 2 – Bear and Share the Burdens;

Gal 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

Gal 6:2 Bear one another's burdens (baros-weight, heavy burdens), and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Gal 6:3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

Gal 6:4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

Gal 6:5 For each one shall bear his own load (phortion- task, service, very heavy burden- like a soldier's back pack).

Be Generous and Do Good;

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

v. 1 And brothers (and sisters) are able to encourage one another in their Christian lives. “*if a man is overtaken in any trespass*” Paul says we will not ignore a situation when we see someone “caught” in a sin. This indicates that the sinful behavior is a pattern, and a particular sin has, in a sense, gotten the upper hand with this person. What will our aim be? To “*restore..in a spirit of gentleness*” (v 1). The Greek translated “restore” here is *katartizo*. It means we are to confront, even when that will be painful, but our confronting must be aiming to prompt a change of life and heart. But a “brother” will confront “gently”. Paul says this gentleness will only come if you “*consider yourself lest you also be tempted*” This is difficult, but practical, advice. We won’t be able to winsomely confront someone if we think we are not capable of similar or equal sin. The influence of the legalists among the Galatians made this warning necessary; “**Nothing reveals the wickedness of legalism better than the way the legalists treat those who have sinned**”

v. 2 When Paul brought up the idea of the one overtaken in any trespass, it painted the picture of a person sagging under a heavy load. Here he expanded the idea to encourage every Christian to bear one another's burdens. We are humbly and gently to help others with their tasks and problems, with all their burdens.” We can share faults, tensions and griefs. God always directs us to be **others-focused rather than self-focused**, and says, “*Bear one another's burdens.*”

v. 4 Paul has said that every individual is responsible before God to respond obediently to the opportunities that God has given him or her. There is no way that such responsibility can be given away. But now Paul wants to make sure that this statement is not understood as promoting some kind of radical individualism. In order to avoid self-deception, we all need to submit ourselves to teachers who in turn have submitted themselves to other teachers. All Christians need to have been those who have received “instruction in the word”

v. 5 Some burdens we cannot share, such as a mother bearing a child in her womb; suffering, death and the judgment day. The burden of sin is too heavy to bear or to share – we must take it to the cross!

v. 6 God's people should not share in all good things with him who teaches because it is good for the teacher. They should do it **because it is good for the one who is taught and shares, and the principle of reaping and sowing demonstrates this.** A spiritual person is one who is willing to share.

v. 1 The legalists define spirituality one way – hard, mean, unforgiving! “*You made you bed, now you lie in it!*” They would not lift one finger to bear another’s burden.

But how different our Lord defines spirituality – a desire, with humility and gentleness to restore someone who has been overtaken in a trespass.

Restore (katartizo)– the term given where a bone is restored and **actually becomes stronger than before!** What would you want in someone who would reset a broken bone for you?

Consider how Jesus walks us through our difficulties every single day!

How He handled the woman caught in adultery! John 8:3-11!

Consider how Jesus Peter was restored! John 21:15-23

v. 3 If anyone thinks himself – so fitting for a legalist who is always prideful, always getting their nose in places where they don’t need to be!

v. 4 Application – As I examine, test, prove myself, **How am I doing?** At the end of the day how did I do?

v. 5 Application – How faithful am I in carrying my own backpack? My own stewardship?

v.6 1 Cor. 9:13-15 *Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar?* [14] *Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.* [15] *But I have used none of these things, nor have I written these things that it should be done so to me; for it would be better for me to die than that anyone should make my boasting void.* **Application – Am I sharing all good things with those who are teaching me?**

GALATIANS CHAPTER 6 – Bear and Share the Burdens; Be Generous and Do Good; Glory Only in the Cross; Blessing and a Plea

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Gal 6:7 *Do not be deceived* (both to the legalist and to the spiritual), *God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*

Gal 6:8 *For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption (rotting), but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*

Gal 6:9 *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*

Gal 6:10 *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

Glory Only in the Cross;

Gal 6:11 *See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!*

Gal 6:12 *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.*

INTERPRETATION

vs. 7-8 “Sows” “reap” These final words of Paul’s may at first sight seem like a series of disconnected statements, but Paul is actually doing two things as he signs off. Verses 6-10 are his **final warning**; and verses 11-18 are his **final invitation**. His warning and his invitation are essentially the same message, the message that underlies every line of this letter: **live by the gospel!** The Teacher and the Taught Paul’s first instruction in this section both looks back to the previous part of the letter, and forward to Paul’s warning. If we live by the Spirit, we will enjoy the approval and assurance and fulfillment and joy of the Christian life now, and know that it will continue beyond death. Sowing Well So how can we be someone who “sows to please the Spirit”

v. 9 There is always a delay between sowing and reaping. Especially, new farmers and gardeners will experience a lot of anxiety, watching over the dormant seed for weeks and weeks, and feeling it will never come up. But it always comes up in the end. Paul has warned sinners that, though it may seem for a long time that your sin hasn’t found you out, eventually it will. Now he wants to encourage those who are living for Christ. People who do good will see the fruits and benefits—eventually. A lack of follow-through in ministry can stunt the “harvest”, just as it does in gardening. What is this “doing good” sowing? It is to “do good to all people, “we” especially to those who belong to the family of believers” **2Co 4:1** *Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart.*

v. 10 This is sweeping and comprehensive in its simplicity. First, it shows what the Christian life is all about; not primarily meetings, programs or even conversions, **but doing good to others**. Second, the word “do good” discerns as their needs. The word “do good” means that we must not confine ourselves to evangelism and discipling. **We are to love in deed as well as in word.**

v. 11 Here is his last appeal, his last invitation to keep trusting the gospel for salvation and living it out day by day, and he decides to “write to you with my own hand!” First, he wants to convince them that real Christianity is a matter of inward change, not external observance. It is substantial, not superficial. Again, he focuses on the motives of the false teachers. They “want to make a good impression outwardly”

v. 12 The cross is by nature offensive! And we can only grasp its sweetness if we first grapple with its offense. If someone understands the cross, it is either the greatest thing in their life, or it is repugnant to them. If it is neither of those two things, they haven’t understood it.

APPLICATION

vs. 7-8 Application – Are you aware of **what you plant, you will reap?** If you are sowing to the flesh, you will reap to the flesh! What you sow, you are going to reap- that’s a warning and a promise! Am I keeping eternity in mind? Am I being patient? (3X “will”)

Three rules here:

- You reap **what** you sow;
- The harvest comes **later**;
- You’ll reap **more** than you sow

How aware of the consequences of your sowing? Corruption or everlasting life? We control our own destiny in this.

v. 9 Application – Two things of concern – **growing weary; losing heart!**

Am I doing good? Am I praying? Am I in the Word? Am I spending time with Him? Walking with the risen Savior!

v. 10 Application – Therefore in due season (opportunity), let us do good. **How am I doing in this time of opportunity? Am I doing good, especially to other believers?**

v. 11 Application – Paul is putting his hand, heart and emotions into standing for completed work Christ on the cross? Of His all-sufficient grace.

As His blood bought sons/daughters, are we doing this?

v. 12 Application – The Judaizers were trying to curry favor with the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem and also to avoid the oppression and persecution of the cross.

Is that our tendency? To curry favor of men? To avoid oppression and persecution?

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Gal 6:13 For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.

Gal 6:14 But God forbid that I should boast (gloryglory, joy, rejoice.) except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Gal 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

Blessing and a Plea:

Gal 6:16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

Gal 6:17 From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

Gal 6:18 Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

INTERPRETATION

v. 13 They have gotten into religion for the fame, prestige and honor it can bring them in the world. Their ministry, as we saw in 4:17-18, is a form of self-salvation. On its own terms, biblical legalism cannot work. A religion based on externals and behavior as a way of salvation may prompt pride and bring popularity, but it cannot deliver the eternal life it promises. Ultimately, Paul says, the heart of your religion is what you boast in. What, at bottom, the message of his letter. “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ”

v. 14 Paul writes about his motives. But God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. It seemed much more logical to glory in your good showing in the flesh, instead of the cross. But Paul thinks and writes with a heavenly logic that surpasses anything of this earth. It's foolish and shameful to boast for my best things with the backdrop of the cross and what Christ has done for me! But to the Christian, that cross is the subject of glorying. It is so because: Of the love of Him who suffered there; Of the purity and holiness of His character, for the innocent died there for the guilty; Of the honor there put on the Law of God by His dying to maintain it unsullied; Of the reconciliation there made for sin, accomplishing what could be done by no other oblation, and by no power of man; Of the pardon there procured for the guilty; Of the fact that through it we become dead to the world, and are made alive to God; Of the support and consolation which goes from that cross to sustain us in trial; and, Of the fact that it procured for us admission into heaven, a title to the world of glory. All is glory around the cross. *1 Cor. 1:18-31*

v. 15 Legalism tries to reform the old nature. But spiritually speaking we are a new creation in Christ, the old things have passed away!

v. 16 this rule – the cross and the new birth! No peace exists for the legalist as he is always trying to keep his legalism!

v. 17 The legalists were responsible for the marks that Christ bore and is bearing. Paul is saying he also is bearing such marks, also from legalists, however in a much smaller measure than that of My Master!

v.18 Paul could wish nothing greater for the Galatians than this. If this were so, they would walk in a grace relationship with God instead of the legal, performance-based relationship that endangered them so. This is an appropriate end for the letter and prayer for all our lives.

APPLICATION

v. 13 Application – How often do I glory in my flesh? My accomplishments?

v. 14 Application – How often am I glorying in anything other than the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ? Is your life crucified to the world around me? Are you aware you are not of this world, not because of your origin, but **because of your destiny?**
How well do I understand the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ?

v. 15 Application – Are you sure that you are born again?

v. 16 Application – The only rule is this-the cross and the new birth!

v. 17 Application – Concerned about what other think? What marks of the Lord Jesus can be seen in me?

v. 18 Application – Are you clear in grace versus legalism for the believer?

Gal. 1:6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Joh 17:23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

That's the way He see you today!
We need You! Help us to walk in the Spirit; to love You and others more!

So, Paul comes to the end of his letter; and he closes just the way he began: GRACE! Not “the Law of Moses,” but THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST! No more need be said, because that says it all.

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