

Galatians

Return Church

Lesson #11

Wednesday

November 12, 2025

Galatians

- This is our final lesson in the book of Galatians.
- Galatians is all about the gospel.
- Galatians is written to Christians. The point of the book of Galatians is that Christians need to continue to hear the gospel.
- Your life needs to be in line with the gospel.
- Christianity brings you a way of looking at yourself that is so different from any other religion.
- Chapter 6 is full of great truths from God's Word.
- Each verse is like a Proverb, full of great instruction from God.

Restore someone

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. ***Galatians 6:1 NKJV***

What does it mean to restore someone with gentleness?

Grace and truth

God says this over and over in the Bible. If the Gospel comes into your life, you will develop and grow with a balance in your relationships of grace and truth. A mature believer will have a toughness and a sweetness about him.

Jesus was full of grace and truth.

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. **John 1:14 NKJV***

*We will speak the truth in love, **Ephesians 4:15 NLT***

Martha & Mary

Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. Now Martha said to Jesus, Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You. Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again. Martha said to Him, I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. **John 11:20-25 NKJV**

Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. And He said, where have you laid him? They said to Him, Lord, come and see. Jesus wept. **John 11:32-35 NKJV**

Restore

- This is Jesus, He always knows how to relate to the person exactly as they need. He gave Martha truth and then He gave Mary grace.
- Do you know how to speak to someone that is caught in sin and how to restore them?
- You need the 2 sides of Jesus, the ministry of truth and grace, toughness and sweetness if you are going to restore someone.
- **Restore** – means to mend what has been broken. Like setting a dislocated bone back into place.
- Paul says trespass or sin; it is like dislocated bones. Some people think sin is like a splinter in your body, you just jerk it out. No, it doesn't work that way.
- You must be gentle, and you need both grace and truth.

Restore

- As a general rule Christians don't need to confront non-Christians about their sinful behavior. They simply need to share Jesus with them. He will clean up their behaviors. Sinners need to hear the gospel.
- You don't jump in and tell everyone off when they sin.
- If you see someone overtaken by a sin, means something that is repeated.
- This is not talking about a sin against you.
- You who are spiritual. I think Paul is talking to the spiritually mature.
- Do it gently, watch yourself or you may be tempted.
- We need the ministry of grace and truth, tears and toughness.

Bear one another's burdens

*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. **Galatians 6:2 NKJV***

- Do you want to help others? To bear their burdens?
- You must transfer some of the weight over from them onto you.
- You have to suffer a bit with them.
- You might need to give to them financially.
- If you say I can't afford to give my time or my money, you are saying, I don't want their suffering on me.
- Learn to bear another's burdens and fulfill the law of Christ.

The Good Samaritan paid for his care.

The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here. **Luke 10:35 NLT**

You are nothing – take pride in yourself

For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. ***Galatians 6:3-4 NKJV***

If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, ***Galatians 6:3-4 NIV***

Self-image

- This passage deals with our self-image, or self esteem.
- The gospel has a unique paradox when it comes to self-image.
- The two most important things are:
 - To see God the way He really is
 - To see yourself the way that God sees you.
- If you are seeing yourself the way the enemy wants you to see your self, you will live a defeated life. We must have a true and healthy self-image.

A Great Truth:

You are more sinful, wicked and flawed in yourself than you ever dared believe, yet at the very same time you are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than you ever dared hope.

Worm theology

But I am a worm, and no man; Psalms 22:6 NKJV

- Paul is saying we are nothing. Is this unreal, exaggeration or spiritual word inflation? No, these are carefully chosen words by Paul.
- Others say it is worm theology; I'm a worm, a wretch like me.
- Taken out of balance, this can destroy your self image, destroy your sense of who you are.
- I am nobody, I must deny myself, shrink myself, put myself down.

Paul said he was the worst

For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, ***1 Corinthians 15:9 NKJV***

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, ***Ephesians 3:8 NKJV***

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—and I am the worst of them all. ***1 Timothy 1:15 NKJV***

A paradox

If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, ***Galatians 6:3-4 NIV***

Here we see that we are nothing and then we are to take pride in ourselves, this is the paradox.

- **We are nothing.**
- **We are to take pride in ourselves.**

In Christianity, our personalities should have a humility and a boldness at the same time.

Two sides to the Christian

I am nothing

- I am a worm
- I am humble as a lamb
- I am nobody
- I am poor in Spirit
- I will deny myself
- I am the least
- I am the worst sinner

I am something

- I am an heir of God
- I am bold as a lion
- I am somebody
- I am rich in Christ Jesus
- I am righteous in Christ
- I am holy
- I am a Saint

Poor in Spirit – Rich in Christ

- Paul says on one hand I am nothing. Which means I cannot merit my salvation. I am poor in Spirit. Without Jesus I can do nothing.
- What does it mean to be a Christian.
- To be willing to admit you are nothing is to say, I cannot possibly save myself, I am poor in Spirit.
- When you go to Jesus, His righteousness is transferred to your account. So now you see your nothingness and your greatness all at once.
- Without the gospel you can't admit that you are nothing.
- You must admit your nothing and boast of your greatness in Christ. Your greatness is from Christ. I'm righteous, I am holy, because I have been placed into Christ Jesus.

Rich in Christ Jesus

- If you are a Christian, if you believe the gospel, then in Him you are everything. You are rich beyond measure.
- You can't admit the nothingness unless you see the greatness.
- I am nothing in myself, but Great in Christ.
- The church should be the most non-judgmental place ever, because we all were sinners saved by grace. What makes you better than some one else?
- We should never compare ourselves with each other.
- Come into His arms, you will know you are nothing, but you will be proud of yourself, because you are rich in Christ.

Bear his own burden

For each one shall bear his own load. ***Galatians 6:5 NKJV***

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2 NKJV

- Paul is not contradicting himself. Verse 2 has to do with helping others, while verse 5 has to do with our personal responsibility. We will all stand before the judgement seat of Christ.
- **Load** – means the pack that a soldier carries. There are certain loads or responsibilities that each believer must carry on his own.
- Each one of us has a job to do, a yoke or a load that we must carry.
- There are 4 loads that we must carry that we cannot share.
 - Suffering, death, judgement, and sin.

Be a student

Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the Word should share all good things with their instructor. **Galatians 6:6 NIV**

- You need to be a student in the gospel. You will never be able to grow all by yourself.
- Share all good things – if you are going to grow in grace, you need to be a student. You should be sharing everything about your journey with a teacher.
- You need people who know more about the gospel than you to whom you are accountable, with whom you are in fellowship.
- You need to learn in community. We need instruction from a friend.

God is not mocked

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 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. ***Galatians 6:7-8 NKJV***

- If this letter was written to the lost it would be easy to understand. To a lost person who is thumbing his nose up at God, you sow a life of sin, you reap an eternity in hell.
- We can sow to the flesh or sow to the Spirit.
- We can live our lives pleasing our fleshly nature by spending our time, energy and money on pleasure, comforts and self-promotion or we can live to please the Lord.

Sooner or later we all sit down to a banquet of consequences. ***Robert Louis Stevenson***

Sowing and reaping

Sow a thought, reap a belief;

Sow a belief and you reap an act;

Sow an act, and you reap a habit;

Sow a habit, and you reap a character;

Sow a character, and you reap a destiny.

Sowing and reaping

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 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. ***Galatians 6:7-8 NKJV***

- But what is Paul really saying here? He is writing to Christians.
- He is not contradicting everything else he wrote in Galatians.
- The book of Galatians tells us that Christianity is different from any other religion. All other religions say do right or you will be judged.
- **The essence of Christianity is Jesus was judged for you. He took your place.**
- **Religion says do, Christianity says done.**
- Religion says do good deeds and God will bless you, do evil deeds and God will curse or judge you. This is not what sowing and reaping means in this context.

Sowing and reaping

- When we hear, God is not mocked, we immediately think of an irritated, mean or cranky God. If you disobey Him, He will send thunderbolts, He will make you sick, or you will lose your job.
- Most people believe when something goes horribly wrong in their life, that they must have done something horribly wrong in the past. Or if something goes good, they must have done something good in the past.
- Julie Andrews in the sound of music, she sang a song called Something Good. She was in love and the lyrics went like this: *somewhere in my youth or childhood, I must have done something good.* I'm sorry Julie, but it doesn't work that way.

Sowing and reaping

- However, remember the context. In chapter 5 Paul gave us an extensive teaching contrasting the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit.
- The works of the flesh are something we do.
- The fruit of the Spirit is something God does, something God grows.

Remember the words of Jesus:

*Another parable He put forth to them, saying: The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; **Matthew 13:24 NKJV***

Sowing and reaping

- There are principles at work in nature that you have to adapt to, so are there principles in the spiritual world.
- If you sow corn, you will not reap tomatoes. If you sow corn, you will reap corn.
- Paul is saying there is a moral order just like a physical order.
- Even if you don't believe in gravity, it is still true. Just jump off the building and see. It doesn't matter what you believe.
- Whatsoever you sow you will reap, it will come up, it may be gradual.
- The judgment that comes upon you is natural when you break the design of what God has created.
- If you eat too many fatty foods, you may have a heart attack.
- If you buy a car, and you don't change the oil ever, it will break down.
- Paul says this is what happens when you break the moral order.

Examples

- When the Bible says, you must forgive. God is not saying, how can I make it cost people something to get to heaven. God is saying it is a sin to hold a grudge, because it is going to hurt you if you don't forgive. Bitterness reaps horrible loneliness and can even make you sick.
- God is concerned about your joy. He wants you to experience the freedom of forgiveness.
- God's Word teaches us to give lots of our money away. God is not saying you have to buy your way to heaven. No, he is saying if you spend all the money on yourself, it will hurt you, it will ruin your heart. You need to experience the joy of generosity.
- God has not made rules to make you miserable, he does it to protect you, for your well being, for your joy.
- To move against the will of God is to move against yourself.

Don't sow to the flesh

- Paul is saying that judgment comes automatically as you go against the fabric of the moral universe.
- If the reason you are trying to obey God is so that He will bless you and you are afraid to disobey Him because He might curse you, then you are sowing to the flesh. You are religious and you don't understand the depths of the gospel.
- Most people in the business world are good because of fear or pride. They are only honest because they want to be successful, and they fear failure. They are sowing to the flesh.
- They are not honest because Jesus has given them a new heart, they are honest, because they want to be rich.
- If all my good behaviors are to earn me a blessing and I don't do bad things to avoid the judgments, then I am sowing to the flesh.

To sow in the Spirit

- To sow in the Spirit is to understand the gospel, not do, but done, and then to live from that perspective.
- It can't mean to do good things to earn God's favor, acceptance.
- It can't mean to be good because I am afraid that God will judge me if I'm bad; you are operating out of fear and pride. You are sowing into your flesh.
- Salvation comes when you realize that you are wicked, sinful, and you can't possibly earn your way to heaven, and you realize God doesn't owe you anything. You are poor in spirit, bankrupt spiritually, and you pray God save me.
- God saves you by His grace, not by your works.
- The gospel is the only thing that can help you.
- **Religion says do, but Christianity says done.**
- Only when you start sowing to the Spirit can you live right.

Don't grow weary

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

- Don't grow weary while doing good.
- You will eventually reap what you sow, it may take some time. Fruit trees don't grow up overnight.
- If you are not careful, you can burn out. The Christian ministry will absolutely burn you out if you just continue to work and give.
- This is a marathon race and not a 100-yard sprint.
- This is why it is important to **rest, receive, revive** and **return**.

The household of faith

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

- Do good to all, especially to the household of faith.
- It doesn't say help only the household of faith, but especially the household of faith.
- **It says, do good to all.**
- I believe that means everyone that God brings to you to help.
- Who has He brought into your path?

Large letters

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

Galatians 6:11 NKJV

- Many scholars think Paul may have had an eye problem.
- Here is says that he wrote this epistle in large letters with his own hand.
- We do know that he had a thorn in his flesh.

Boast in the cross

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.

Galatians 6:14 NKJV

- This is one of the greatest verses in the Bible.
- Paul is saying this is the one big thing I want to you understand; The cross.
- Only one thing is absolutely necessary, nothing else comes close.
- Paul does not say God forbid that I boast in the teachings of Jesus, like the sermon on the Mount.
- He is saying what really matters is not the teachings of Jesus, but rather what he came to do. Jesus came to die.

Jesus came to die

He said to them, But who do you say that I am? Simon Peter answered and said, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus answered and said to him, Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven,..... From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You! But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men. ***Matthew 16:15-23 NKJV***

Jesus came to die

- Peter was ok as long as Jesus was the teacher, how to love each other, how to get alone, how to deal with our troubles, but as soon as Jesus said what he is here to do, I am here to die, Peter couldn't handle it, he flipped, Jesus had to rebuke him. Get behind me Satan, you are an offense to me.
- The main thing Jesus came to do is to die.
- It is what you believe about the cross that matters.
- Jesus wants the Christian faith built around the cross.
- Do we really need another moral teacher?
- The world knows to love their neighbor, they need a new heart. They need a new nature.

Jesus Christ and Him crucified

*For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. **1 Corinthians 2:2 NKJV***

- You can only be saved by what Jesus did for you on the cross.
- Why did Jesus die for you?
- Do you believe that all good people everywhere can have a relationship with God?
- Do you believe all religions are just different paths up the same mountain or that all good people will go to heaven?
- Have some guts. Say the truth. Liberals get upset over this idea.
- Salvation is by grace and not by living good. It is through Jesus only.
- Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. He is the only way to heaven.

The offense of the cross

- Paul is saying the only way to see the cross as sweetness, you must first go through the offense of the cross.
- The false teachers were repulsed by it.
- How do you know if you understand the cross? The cross by nature is offensive.
- If you have never been offended by it, maybe you don't understand it.
- Good moral people and wicked people both need the cross.
- Everybody gets offended by the cross once you hear it, because it is against all schemes of self salvation and pride.
- Its offensive to people when you say that you are such a wicked person, you are such a dirty rotten sinner that the only way you can possibly be saved is for the Son of God to come to earth, live a perfect life, then be crucified on a cross to die in your place.

Boast in the cross

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.

Galatians 6:14 NKJV

- Is the world dead to you? Are you worried, scared, lonely, depressed, shy, board, angry, the world will not have this power over you if you allow the cross to have its power over you.
- Are you boasting in something other than the cross?
- **Boast** – this is my joy, my glory, my honor, if I don't have this, I'm nothing.
- If you are boasting in the cross the world has no power over you.
- May I never boast in anything except in the cross of Jesus Christ.

The marks of the Lord Jesus

From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen. ***Galatians 6:17-18 NKJV***

- Paul had scars from the whippings, the stoning's and the beatings. He had the marks of Christ on his body.
- If you want to be a teacher, expect some wounds and scars.
- **If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?**

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. **Amen.***