

Galatians 6

Closing Instructions and Warnings

Galatians 6 key words: "boast, good, sow, reap, circumcision"

Day 1

Read Galatians 6:1-5

Reaching Out to Others

1. List the guidelines Paul gives in 6:1:
 - What problem is addressed?
 - Who should do the confronting?
 - How should it be done? (Cp. Matthew 18:15)
 - What is the goal of the confrontation?
 - What does the confronting person need to be careful about? (Compare 1 Corinthians 10:12)

IT'S GREEK TO ME "Caught/overtaken" *prolambano* Strong's NT:4301, "to anticipate" (pro, "before," lambano, "to take"), is used ...of being "overtaken" in any trespass, Gal 6:1, where the meaning is not that of detecting a person in the act, but of his being caught by the trespass, through his being off his guard (...contrast the premeditated practice of evil in 5:26). The modern Greek version is "even if a man, through lack of circumspection, should fall into any sin."
- Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

"fault" Strong's NT:3900 *paraptoma*; a side-slip (lapse or deviation), i.e. (unintentional) error or (wilful) transgression
- Strong's Concordance

2. What picture does the idea of restoration give you? (Do you think that means that there won't be pain in the process?)

IT'S GREEK TO ME "restore" NT:2675 *katartizo*; to complete thoroughly, i.e. repair (literally or figuratively) or adjust
- Strong's Concordance

"The verb is instructive. *Katartizo* means to 'put in order' and so to 'restore to its former condition' . . . It was used in secular Greek as a medical term for setting a fractured or dislocated bone. It is applied in Mark 1:19 to the apostles who were 'mending' their nets."
- John Stott (160)

"This job of restoration is often neglected in the church. We have a tendency to either pretend the sin never happened, or we tend to react too harshly towards the one who has sinned. The balance between these two extremes can only be negotiated by the **spiritual**. It should be normal to do what God says here, but it isn't. It is all too easy to respond to someone's sin with gossip, harsh judgment, or undiscerning approval."
- David Guzik

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3. What do the following add to the idea of how we should handle the sins of others?

- 1 Peter 4:8

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

4. What connection do you see between the instructions in 6:1 and 6:2?

Food for Thought: "This is a simple command to obey. Look for a brother or a sister with a burden, and help them with it. It isn't complicated, and it doesn't take a huge program or infrastructure to do it. Just look for a burden to bear and bear it!"
- David Guzik

5. Underline the phrases that describe how we can help carry each other's burdens.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.
- Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.
- Romans 15:1-2 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. 2 Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. NIV
- Colossians 3:13 Bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

6. How is bearing another person's burden a fulfillment of "the law of Christ?" 6:2 (See John 13:34)

For Your Information: "It is probable that Paul is taking one more swipe at the "Judaizers," the false teachers who were trying to get the Galatians to come under the Mosaic law. These requirements had been described as a 'yoke', a burden...(see Acts 15:10; cf. Luke 11:46)...'Law of Christ' means modeling our whole life on the example of Christ, motivated by grateful joy. It is a life centered on a person rather than a code. We have a different kind of obligation upon us than we did before. Now, we bear others' burdens because Christ bore ours. Verse 2 could be summed up as: *Bear others' burdens, and by doing this follow in the footsteps of Christ, who bore yours.*" - Timothy Keller (168)

7. What did Paul warn against in 6:3?

- How effect would this attitude have on both the giving and receiving of help?

- What effect would it have on giving or receiving correction?

8. In the following verses, underline reasons we shouldn't think too highly of ourselves.

- Psalm 103:14 For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust.
- John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.
- 1 Corinthians 4:7 For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?
- 2 Corinthians 3:5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God,

Food for Thought: "It isn't that some Christians are **something**, and others are **nothing**...Instead, Paul writes with the same idea behind Philippians 2:3 *In lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.* If I esteem you above me, and you esteem me above you, a marvelous thing happens: we have a community where everyone is looked up to, and no one is looked down on!"
- David Guzik

9. What did Paul warn against in 6:4 (Compare Romans 12:3,6)

- Consider: What can you "examine" (vs.4) about your own actions that no one else can?

10. How do you think an accurate understanding of who we are in God's eyes leads to more compassionate relationships?

11. Compare 6:5 with 6:2.

IT'S GREEK TO ME "burdens" (6:2) *baros* NT:922 denotes "a weight, anything pressing on one physically," Matt 20:12, or "that makes a demand on one's resources," - Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

"load" NT:5413 *phortion*; an invoice (as part of freight), i.e...a task or service - Strong's Concordance

"The Greek word translated burdens means a heavy weight, but the different Greek word translated *load* refers to a kind of backpack. Verse 5 means that God has given each of us a different set of difficulties and opportunities, a different set of weaknesses and gifts. These are our 'load' — our responsibility before God. We are therefore not to compare ourselves with others. ..We will not compare ourselves with someone who has done less than us (and feel conceited pride) or someone who has done more (and feel conceited despair or envy). God has given them a different load to carry and to serve Him with. Our task is to carry our individual load, not someone else's, in a way that pleases God.

If we see life this way, we will be slow to judge others as well. We will be non-judgmental and generous. For example, if we see someone being irritable, we will think, *'I don't know what pressures that person is facing nor what level of emotional self-control he began with. Maybe he is actually obeying God better than me today!'* - Timothy Keller (170)

Applying the Word: Think of a burden you have had to carry in life. What are helpful ways others supported you?

Day 2**Read Galatians 6:6-14****Sowing and Reaping**

12. Besides the usual understanding of “sharing” as financial support, what other kinds of sharing do you think Paul was referring to in 6:6?
13. In spite of Paul’s instruction in 6:6, what was often his own experience?
- 1 Corinthians 9:11-12
 - 2 Thessalonians 3:8-9
 - 1 Corinthians 4:11,12
14. What principle from farming did Paul give for living? 6:7 (Compare. 2 Corinthians 9:6)

For Your Information: “If you sow seed poorly, you reap a poor crop (and poverty)...If you give in to your sinful nature, you reap spiritual breakdown and destruction. The word “*destruction*” [NIV] can also helpfully be rendered ‘corruption’ or ‘disintegration’. Paul is saying that sin makes things fall apart.” - Timothy Keller (175)

15. What different “crops” are produced by the way we sow? 6:8 (See also Romans 6:19-23)

For Your Information: “The sinful nature (‘flesh’) is the part of our heart that wants to keep control of our lives by being our own Savior and Lord- which resists the gospel of free grace and seeks continually to earn our own righteousness....How can we be someone who *sows to the Spirit?* ...By obeying God out of grateful joy that comes from knowing our status as children of God. When we do that, the idols which controlled our lives are disempowered and we are free to live for God.” - Timothy Keller (176,177)

16. What focus do we need to have to keep from being “*weary in doing good*”? 6:9 (Compare the reasons given in 1 Corinthians 15:58; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18)
- What other focus is given in Hebrews 12:2,3?

17. From 6:10:

- What are we to “do?” (Compare 1 Timothy 6:17-18)
- When are we to do it?
- To whom are we to “do good?”
- *Consider: What costs and what benefits do you see good works having on the person doing them?*

Final Warnings

18. Why do you think Paul wrote in his own handwriting at the end of this letter? 6:11 (For other examples see 1 Corinthians 16:21; Colossians 4:18; 2 Thessalonians 3:17)

19. What was motivating the Judaizers to compel the Gentiles to be circumcised?

- 6:12a,13b (Compare Luke 16:15)
- 6:12b

Digging Deeper

How did Jesus warn about external “acts of righteousness?”
Matthew 6:1-5

Luke 12:1-2

For Your Information: “Ultimately, the gospel is offensive because the cross stands against all schemes of self-salvation....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.” - Timothy Keller (180,181)

20. What inconsistency did Paul point out about the Judaizers? 6:13a

For Your Information: “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.” - Timothy Keller (181)

21. How did Paul contrast his boasting with theirs? 6:13,14 (See 1 Corinthians 1:30,31)

22. How are we to perceive our relationship to the world? 6:14b

Digging Deeper

For Paul's view of worldly accomplishments and things see Philipians 3:8-11 and 1 John 2:15-17

For Your Information: "For people who knew what crucifixion was all about, the words "**cross**" and "**glory**"...were direct opposites, because there was not a more humiliating, shameful way to be executed than **the cross**. 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."

'What did he mean...by the "cross?" He means the glorious doctrine of justification-free justification-through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ.' (Spurgeon)

All legalism, all attempts to gain righteousness or favor from God on the basis of our good works is an essential rejection of Jesus' work on the cross. You can't trust in your own works, your own performance under the law, and at the same time **glory . . . in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...**"
- David Guzik

"As I truly boast in Christ alone, there is a stunning turnaround in my life. The world is dead to me...if nothing in the world is my righteousness or salvation, if there is nothing in the world that I boast in, then there is nothing in the world that controls me — nothing that I MUST have."
- Timothy Keller (182,183)

23. Underline how we should respond to or view "the world."

- Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- Colossians 3:1-3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. NIV
- Hebrews 11:13 All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.
- 1 John 2:15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Applying the Word: *In what area(s) do you think you struggle the most to let go of worldly perspectives?*

Day 3

Read 6:15-18

False teaching and false

24. What was Paul's final judgment on circumcision? 6:15

25. Why doesn't circumcision have anything to do with a new creation?

- Romans 2:28,29
- Philippians 3:3

For Your Information: "We don't make ourselves **a new creation.**" - David\ Guzik

"Religious or moral attainments, and religious or moral failures, are irrelevant when it comes to salvation, because it is not about what I have done, but about what Christ has done." - Timothy Keller (183)

26. What is the only thing that matters ("counts" NIV)? 6:15 (Compare 5:6)

- How do we become a "new creation?" See 2 Corinthians 5:17,18a
- What is the "new" way that we serve? Romans 7:6

For Your Information: "The gospel creates a new motivation for obedience — grateful love arising from a faith view of what Christ has done. This new motivation renews us from the inside out. It is a new birth, a supernatural transformation of character, a new creation."
- Timothy Keller (183)

27. What are some benefits of walking by "this rule" (i.e. as a *new creation*)? 6:16

For Your Information: "Only a life reborn and growing in Jesus can experience peace and mercy instead of turmoil and judgment. People who live for themselves or any other human standard are at enmity with God and living under His decree of judgment."
- Charles Swindoll (133)

28. Underline further benefits we have with this new birth:

1 Peter 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

29. How did Paul's life testify to his service to the Lord? 6:17

- What, for example, had the Galatians witnessed? Acts 14:19 (See also 2 Corinthians 6:4-5; 11:23-27)

30. What hallmark words did Paul close with? 6:18 (Compare 1:3)

FYI: ""After the storm and stress and intensity of the letter comes the peace of the benediction. Paul has argued and rebuked and cajoled but his last word is GRACE, for him the only word that really mattered.' (Barclay)" - David Guzik

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ' is the entry point to, and the way to continue with, and all we will ever need in, the Christian life...This gospel of grace is what the Galatians need to know, and love, 'in your spirit'. It is not a set of abstract truths. It is a way of life, of deeply fulfilling, secure life now, and of eternal life to come." - Timothy Keller (184,185)

"There is freedom to be lived. There is God to be enjoyed.' (Eugene H. Peterson) If you haven't already done so, open the door of your life to Jesus Christ. Let Him come in and begin circulating the crisp, clean air of spiritual liberty. Then submit yourself daily to the control of His Spirit, allowing His liberating power to permeate everything you feel, think and do."
- Charles Swindoll (141)

"Now, Beloved, walk in the righteous freedom that is yours in Christ Jesus. Don't let anyone put you under the yoke of bondage. Instead take His yoke upon you and learn of Him. Truth sets you free!" - Kay Arthur (41)

Applying the Word: Where do you need God's grace to permeate your life, your thinking? Take time to pray for God to fill you with His power and peace in this area of your life.

Day 4

31. Pick one of the following questions to answer and share with your small group.

- *What are some interesting things that you learned about Paul? What surprised you about his life?*
- *What did you learn about struggles that faced believers right from the start?*
- *What did you learn from Galatians that convicted, corrected and/or encouraged you?*
- *Has the study of the gospel of Galatians changed your view of God? If so, how?*
- *What have you taken away from Galatians that will impact you the most?*