

Lessons from Galatians

Righteousness by Faith Series



Lesson 6—Final words of Counsel Galatians 6:1-18

- I. **Introduction:** *In the final chapter of Galatians, the Apostle deals with three primary areas, (1) Looking out for each other, (2) Sowing to the Spirit (as opposed to the flesh), and (3) Glorifying in the Cross of Christ rather than in the things of this world.*
- II. **Being your Brother's Keeper and "Bearing your own burden" (v.1-5)**
 - a. (v.1) *"...you who are spiritual." This spiritual-mindedness is further described by Paul in Romans 8:5-10). If we are filled with and walking in the Spirit, living according to His righteousness, then we may have clear enough spiritual discernment to be of loving service and help to a fellow Christian brother or sister who is struggling with something. "...restore such a one..." (Always our purpose should be to restore back to God's intended design. We need restoration in this life of our relationships, etc.). "...in a spirit of meekness [gentleness]..." You and I need to have the right spirit in these matters! Humble, loving, and longing to help and save. Not the slightest hint of arrogance, or self-righteousness should ever be had. **"Consider thyself lest thou also be tempted"** (You and I are not beyond error either—we are certainly not better—pray for each other).*
 - b. *The Apostle James gives us counsel on this as well. See James 5:19, 20 on helping each other to recover from faults. We shouldn't make careless excuses like Cain did (Genesis 4:9). We are our "brother's keeper" as well. Ezekiel 33:8 also gives us a principle of warning in regard to our personal responsibility.*
 - c. (v.2)—*"bear ye one another's burdens" (help each other along—we're all in this boat together—we're all just trying to get home to be with God). Also, "be patient with one another." And "love one another!"*
 - d. (v.3-5) **We ought to be very careful about "thinking ourselves to be something!"** *Be careful about thinking yourself to be "so righteous." (Romans 2:1). "Esteem others as better than yourself..." (Philippians 2:3). "Let him who thinks he stands, take heed lest..." (1 Corinthians 10:12). You should think of yourself "soberly" and not "more highly than you ought to..." (Romans 12:3). **Examine your own work.** Check out what is in your own heart and life, before you ever go to look at something in another's life (ref. 1 Cor. 11:28; 2 Cor. 13:5). **Christ taught this very lesson: Luke 6:41, 42** "...cast out first the beam in your own eye, then..."*
 - e. *One very insightful Christian author put it this way, "If Christ is in you "the hope of glory," you will have no disposition to watch others, to expose their errors. Instead of seeking to accuse and condemn, it will be your object to help, to bless, and to save. In dealing with those who are in error, you will heed the injunction, Consider "thyself, lest thou also be tempted." Galatians 6:1. You will call to mind the many times you have erred and how hard it was to find the right way when you had once left it. You will not push your brother into greater darkness, but with a heart full of pity will tell him of his danger.*

He who looks often upon the cross of Calvary, remembering that his sins placed the Saviour there, will never try to estimate the degree of his guilt in comparison with that of others. He will not climb upon the judgment seat to bring accusation against another. There can be no spirit of criticism or self-exaltation on the part of those who walk in the shadow of Calvary's cross.

Not until you feel that you could sacrifice your own self-dignity, and even lay down your life in order to save an erring brother, have you cast the beam out of your own eye so that you are prepared to help your brother. Then you can approach him and touch his heart...” –Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p.128, E.G. White

- f. *Be glad to do personally what Jesus says, and not merely think of what others are or are not doing, though you should care for everyone’s soul to help them. Comparing v.5 with v.2 we can see that everyone is responsible ultimately for his own actions in the end!*

III. **Doing good and sowing righteous seeds for eternity (v.6-10)**

- a. *(v.6) We should humbly share the word of God with each other, as knowledge is given to each person. Do not withhold godly counsel but rather, share in God’s blessings!*
- b. *(v.7-9) **We must sow to the Spirit, not the flesh.** There are two natures that are contrary to one another. We must feed that nature which we desire to produce a bountiful harvest. Like two dogs who must eventually fight each other, the one you feed, love, and nurture is the one who will become strong and win! What you put in, you will also get out. Be careful what you choose to sow! You’ll also reap it! (see Isaiah 33:14-17). God desires purity in the inward parts (Matthew 5:8). “Do not get weary...” in doing what is well, but keep yourself in God’s good way!*
- c. *(v.10)—“...especially to those who are of the household of Faith” (often times we neglect those nearest. Those within the church, perhaps we’ve treated like they were nothing.—their already saved so who cares about being kind to them—wrong attitude—Satanic even.) “...all men will know you are my disciples, if you have love one to another” (John 13:35).*

IV. **Letting the world be “crucified” as well as all causes or thoughts for compromises! (v.11-14)**

- a. *(v.11-13) We should never make an compromises of our faith in some effort to please others. We should never seek to please the world! Have faith and glorify Christ alone! Sometimes we have failed to suffer persecution for Christ, because we have truly failed to live the gospel of Christ! We have been far too worldly, even as these. “All who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution...” (1 Timothy 3:12).*
- b. *(v.14)—“...save in the cross of Jesus Christ” (this is what we glory in—the very thing that the world has most utterly despised. Therefore we are to bear its reproach and if that means suffering persecution for not being “circumcised” according to Moses, THEN SO BE IT!). **We are not to be world pleasers—We are to be Christians.** And Christ was **despised and rejected by the world—a man of Sorrows.** (See Isaiah 53:3). *A friend of the world is an enemy to God (James 4:4). Let us not be so! Let the world be crucified to us, and us unto the world!**

- V. **Final words (v.15-18)** *(v.15,16) Peace and mercy be upon the ones who follow God’s true teaching in regard to this matter of circumcision. (v.17) Paul says, “I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus Christ.” What did he mean by this? Galatians 2:20; 6:14 make his statement clearer. Paul had experienced a crucifixion to this world. He would not choose to ever live for pleasing the world. He told the Galatian believers not to trouble him anymore about this matter. His conclusion, point, and mind on the matter were entirely clear! Now the Galatians believers would have to make up their minds for how to follow Christ personally. Paul had said his part in all effort to deliver them, but the final action would have to be theirs!*

Taking it Home: Is it your desire to crucify the world unto yourself? ____ Will you choose to live a godly life in Christ Jesus and to follow His words? ____