

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 7TH, 2024 // GALATIANS

BURDENS (GALATIANS 6:1-5) BROTHERS AND SISTERS

In chapter 5, Paul contrasted living “in the flesh” to living “in the Spirit.” Then, he warned them not to become conceited, provoking, and envying one another. Now, he gets very personal and calls them brothers and sisters.

- **The Christian community is a family, and we should be as real as real gets.**

OVERTAKEN

At this point, Paul is speaking directly to the church, not the lost or even about the church. He recognizes that there will be wrongdoing (sin), and it will overtake some Christ followers.

- **This isn't a license to sin; it is a call to recognize that any of us can fall. And if (when) we do, we will need help.**

RESTORERS

Paul lists the qualifications of someone who helps another out of sin. They should be spiritual (mature), gentle (understanding), and careful (humble).

- **Too often, the church has stood ready to condemn and expel when we are called to restore those who would repent and regain fellowship.**

HELP

Paul says those living in sin need help, and those heavily burdened need help. This is how we “love our neighbor as ourselves” and fulfill the law of Christ.

- **This principle only works when we are willing to admit that sometimes we need help.**

EXAMINE

Paul clarifies that when we start to believe we cannot fail, we become proud and deceive ourselves with self-proclaimed righteousness.

- **When we see sin, is the fruit of the Spirit activated in us, or do we feel a sense of pride that it wasn't us who got caught this time?**

BURDENS VS. LOADS

Some things in life are so heavy we cannot bear them alone. We need help. But **not everything is a crisis**. We cannot let heavy burdens crush our brothers and sisters. We must also **remember that the loads we carry make us stronger**.

- **What's in your backpack?**

GOOD (GALATIANS 6:6-10)

SHARE

Paul moves from sharing burdens to sharing good things. He specifically calls them to share with their teachers.

- **This can be difficult for any pastor to address, but it is biblical and more than a suggestion. There are guidelines and promises when we share with the right motives.**

SOWING

Sowing is about what kind of seed we sow and where. Paul says that God knows the what and where. A wrong motive sows to the flesh, and a holy motive sows to the Spirit.

- **This standard is applied to the one who is taught and the teacher. God will reveal what is sown in His time.**

REAPING

When we sow to the flesh, we reap destruction. When we sow to the Spirit, we reap eternal life from the Spirit, and the fruit of the Spirit will grow in us.

- **If we sow to the flesh every day, we should not expect to reap holiness, victory, and blessing.**

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Paul is connecting the dots and reveals how a healthy Christ follower and the church should sow and reap.

- **Sowing in the Spirit leads us to mature spiritually, gently restore the broken, carry one another's burdens, and give generously.**

TIRED

Paul recognizes that careful, intentional sowing is hard work, and we may have times of exhaustion. There is a reward for faithfulness—**harvest time**.

- **It's not just about us. It's about our brothers and sisters. It's about our neighbors. It's about our community. Will we work for the good of all?**

THE CROSS (GALATIANS 6:11-18)

LARGE LETTERS

Some contend that Paul had poor eyesight or deformed hands. It seems more likely that he desires to emphasize the importance of this letter.

- **He writes passionately with big letters what was big to him—the cross. Are we living like the cross is big to us?**

PRIDEFUL VS HUMBLE

The false teachers were motivated by self-interest and their own agenda. They promoted the law to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ.

- **Are we exalted and lifted up, or are we in awe and humility before the cross of Christ?**

SELF VS. THE CROSS

The false teachers boasted because they were able to influence others to mutilate themselves.

- **We are new creations, forgiven, redeemed, adopted, and blessed with the fruit of the Spirit. Do we boast in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ?**

WORLD VS. CHRIST

The world offers money, success, human praise, power, peer approval, and more as idols for which we can live.

- **Following Christ means living in the Spirit. Greed can be replaced with generosity, lust with purity, anxiety with truth, and envy with love. What do we really desire?**

RITUAL VS. TRANSFORMATION

Paul said the external rituals accomplish nothing. Keeping the rules to be religious tends to create proud legalists.

- **It is not about religious acts or keeping up appearances. It is about being united to Christ in a relationship where His Spirit works to transform us to live differently.**

CURSE VS. PEACE

In chapter 1, Paul desires a curse for those who taught false gospels. He now desires peace and mercy for those who follow the truth of the gospel.

- **Christ followers receive grace, peace, and mercy. As we receive, we should saturate those around us with these same gifts.**

WHO WILL YOU PLEASE?

In the end, Paul says he will not allow himself to be troubled, harassed, or bothered by the agenda and rules of people. He will live for Jesus.

- **What about us? How much of what the world says about us dictates our lives? Who are we listening to? Who are we trying to please?**

CRUSHING

- Life can be overwhelming, and we can feel alone, crushed by our burdens.
- **We aren't all crushed at the same time!**
- **God has given us His Spirit and each other to help carry burdens. Brothers and Sisters shouldn't let family be crushed under burdens or sin.**

WORK

- We desire to be excellent and effective as we work for Jesus and serve others.
- **We must continually check our motives. It's easy to get tired and fall.**
- **We aren't working for the sake of work, staying busy, or being seen. Our goal is God's harvest!**

CROSS

- We will see the harvest, but we will look to the cross of Christ now.
- **When we see Christ, we remember His sacrifice, His love, His grace.**
- **At the cross, we find family who needs us and whom we need too. Will we stay close to Christ? Will we restore others? Will we share? Don't give up! Grace is still here!**