



Instructions for Christian Living

Learning Zone 24th May 2020

Golden Text - (Gal 6:9) "Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not"





WNTCG
WHERE LOVE GROWS

LESSON PLAN

1. Introduction – Theme
2. About Burden Bearing
3. Persevere in Doing Good
4. Glory in the Cross
5. What are the learning points?
6. Questions



INTRODUCTION

Christ frees believers from sin and enables them to receive his promises.

Readings from

- Galatians 3:23 to 4:31

Examine and rejoice in the freedom of being God's heirs in Christ



In today's lesson Paul is concluding his personal letter to the Galatians. In previous chapters, the Holy Spirit inspired his powerful arguments against the Judaizers. These false teachers from Jerusalem had followed Paul around in his ministry to discourage new converts by teaching that the Gentiles had to become Jewish proselytes through circumcision before they could become Christians. They had corrupted some of the believers in Galatia, and Paul's letter was written to help the Church to know how to deal with this particular situation.

In the first portion of Chapter 6, Paul instructs the church how to care for fellow believers. In the second part, Paul explains how to do good to others – both inside and outside the Community of Faith. In the final portion, Paul tells the Galatians how to live as a new creation through faith and grace and not by the works of the flesh.

The Focus is that we should consider and follow Paul's instruction for Christian living

The central truth is that Christians are called to live for God and to demonstrate his goodness

ABOUT BURDEN BEARING



Gal 6:1-6

Restoring the Weak and the Fallen (Gal 6:1 & 2)

- How should we respond when a fellow Christian "falls in sin" (v1)
- To what "law of Christ" does verse 2 refers?

Considering Yourself vs 3-5

- How might we deceive ourselves (3) and how can we overcome this (4)
- What does verse 5 mean?

Supporting the Ministry vs 6

- With whom must we share and why?



About Burden Bearing Gal 6:1-6

Restoring the Weak and the Fallen (Gal5: 1-2)

There is a saying that "the Christian army is the only army that schools its wounded". There is some truth in this saying. Paul admonishes those who have not fallen prey to the false teachings of the Judaizers to help restore their fallen colleagues in a spirit of meekness rather than the spirit of spiritual superiority. Warren Wiersbe said that the word "restore" here is used in a medical sense as if one were setting a broken bone. Using this analogy, the fact that a bone is broken would indicate a painful incident and depending on which bone was broken, it would take time to recover, possibly weeks but in most cases, months. During the recovery period, the spiritually stronger Christian should help bear the burdens of the weaker/recovering ones (i.e. nurse them back to health/full fitness). We are then fulfilling the law of Christ. What is the "Law of Christ"? It is the law of love and grace.

Considering Yourself – vs 3-5

The Spiritually strong should not become haughty, or high minded. We should not think of ourselves more highly than others otherwise we may get ourselves in a trap. The scripture says in Proverbs 16:18 that "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall". Paul said in Romans 12:3 that we should "not think of himself more highly than he ought to think: but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith". The Galatians believers were advised to test themselves – to see if they are doing their very best to bear their own burdens. Jesus reminded us that we should look at ourselves first before judging or criticising others – he said "First cast the beam out of your own eye, then you shall see clearly to cast the mote (splinter) out of your brothers eye" Matt 7:5. Indeed instead of being a critic – why don't you help those who needs the help? Verse 2 says we should be bear one another's burdens – in other words share the load of each other's troubles or problems. By doing this we are obeying the Lord's commands.

Supporting the Ministry vs 6

The Bible teaches that us to take care of the shepherd of the flock. Paul reminded the Galatian Christian that there were still faithful teachers and preachers and that they should be supported both financially and materially. Conversely those who were false teachers should not be supported. It is the duty of the Church to provide for its pastor. Ministers are the Lord's soldiers, captains, and standard bearers and are not to go to war at their own cost. In return the Minister must carry out their responsibilities diligently as the Lord leads them.

PERSEVERE IN DOING GOOD



Gal 6: 7-10

Sowing and Reaping (vs 7-9)

- How do some people think that they can outsmart God? (vs 7)
- Explain the phrase "sows to his own flesh" and its results?
- What causes some believers to lose heart?

The Household of Faith (vs 10)

- Describe a time when a fellow believer did something good for you.



Persevere in doing Good - Gal 6: 7-10

Sowing and Reaping (vs 7-9)

In this portion of scripture Paul is still talking about doing good and giving to good causes. Even though Paul is talking about sharing material blessings with spiritual teachers, the principle of sowing and reaping still applies to all areas of life. Taken from the agricultural setting, it is impossible to plant corn and reap potatoes!! In the same vein, it is impossible to live a wicked life and reap righteousness. This is exemplified in Paul's ministry. As a young man he held the coats of the religious fanatics who stoned Peter to death (Acts 7:58), and he himself went about persecuting the Church until he experienced Christ for himself on the road to Damascus. He himself suffered for the cause of Christ as he was stoned himself!! Paul relates to the sufferings he endured in 2 Cor 11:23 – 28. Paul then urged the believers "not to be weary in well doing" because in due time they will reap a harvest for their good works done in the name of Christ. There is always a time factor in sowing and reaping. You do not reap a harvest in one day, but it takes weeks or months for the seeds to grow into flowers, fruits or vegetables. But if the sower is patient, they will enjoy the harvest in God's selected time.

The Household of faith (vs 10)

Paul instructed the Church to keep on doing good for others, whether they deserved it or not. The needy Christians (and we have many of those today!!) will be blessed by the generosity and prayers of those who have the resources to share. Paul did not collect offerings for all the people of Jerusalem, but for only those in the community of faith. Sometimes, individuals who never attend church, will turn to the church for assistance during times of trouble and financial disaster. While screening for eligibility is biblical (1 Tim 5:9-10), these situations do provide the Church with opportunities to demonstrate Christian love and compassion which will open the door for witnessing the Gospel.

GLORY IN THE CROSS



Gal 6 : 11-18

Paul's personal Salvation (vs 11)

- What do you think was Paul's "thorn in the flesh"?

Salvation by Faith (vs 12-16)

- What might someone do today to "avoid being persecuted"? (v 12)
- Describe the type of boasting that pleases God? (v 14)

Gracious Conclusions (vs 17-18)

- How did Paul's physical body testify to his relationship with Jesus?



Glory in the Cross (Gal 6: 11–18)

Paul's personal salutation (vs 11)

Paul began his conclusion by pointing out that he had personally penned the letters to the Galatian Church. In his other letters he did not personally write them, but dictated them. By writing the letter himself it was no small task as he had eye problems (see Gal 4:15) and was aging. No wonder he wrote in large letters!!! Some say that Paul's "thorn in the flesh" was damaged eyes from his encounter with Jesus on the Damascus road. Some say that it was a messenger of Satan to buffet him, to whisper negativity to him because his life was constantly in danger. Whatever the theory was – Paul received God's promise that his grace was sufficient to deal with the problem. Paul's statement of why he penned the letters was a pledge of support and affection for them so much so that he was willing to undergo the struggle to write to them personally. Again he reminded the Church that they were on his prayer list. He wrote on how often his thoughts turned to them. He spoke of personal sadness at being separated from them and the sheer delight he experienced when he was able to be with them. Those who received the letters must have felt the love and regard Paul had for the Galatian Church.

Salvation by Faith (vs 12-16)

Paul returned to the major theme of Salvation by Faith and not by works of the Law. In the final section, Paul delivered some of his most stinging criticism towards the Judaizers. He accused them of preaching circumcision so that they may bypass the persecution and the humiliation connected with the Cross. In the times of Caesar being executed on a Cross was shameful – reserved for robbers, thieves and rebels – so the Judaizers didn't want to be associated with the Cross. Paul also criticized the Judaizers for not keeping the very law they preached, insisting that the Gentile converts become Jewish Proselytes through circumcision. Paul made a similar accusation against the Jews in his letter to the Romans (Rom 2:17-23). Jesus also indicated that the lawyers of laying on the people "burdens grievous to be borne" while not being willing to lift a finger to help (Luke 11:46). Paul made it plain that he was not ashamed to be associated with the Cross of Christ. Jesus was crucified for Paul's (and our) salvation, and Paul (and we) are crucified with Christ for his/our sanctification (separation from the world). Salvation by faith, not only gives us sinners a facelift, but it makes us a "new creation". This is something the Law could never do. After this birth, the new creature is to walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh.

Gracious Conclusion (vs 17-18)

Finally Paul asked the Church not to trouble him anymore in these matters. Before closing, Paul took a parting shot at the Judaizers by reminding the reader, that while he had suffered much for Christ, these pampered, well fed false teachers from Jerusalem, had not suffered at all!!! Paul's marks on his body (through the lashes or snake bites, stoning he received) was equated to be the marks of a slave brand. Paul considered this to be Christ's brand for him – he was Christ's property. Finally he gave a rabbinical blessing to the reader, pronouncing on them "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ". His central message was salvation by grace, so it was fitting that he closed with that thought.

LEARNING POINTS



1. About burden bearing
2. Persevere in doing good
3. Glory in the Cross

Golden Text - (Gal 6:9) “Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not”



Conclusions

“Our generation has become well versed in Christian terminology but is remiss on actual practice of Christ principles and teachings” stated Billy Graham in his book - ***Storm Warning***. “Hence the greatest need is not mere *Christianity*, but more **true Christians**”.

Looking at the Golden Text – this comes at the end of several specific imperatives which Paul included in his instructions to the Christian Galatians concerning practical ways to live the Christian life. Paul taught that good works will grow out of our salvation experience. These are illustrated in the first 8 verses of this Chapter:

- We are to restore anyone overtaken in a fault or a trespass
- We are to bear one another’s burdens
- We are to prove our work, not someone else’s
- We are to share good things with those who teach us the word
- We are to not to deceive ourselves but remember what we sow we reap

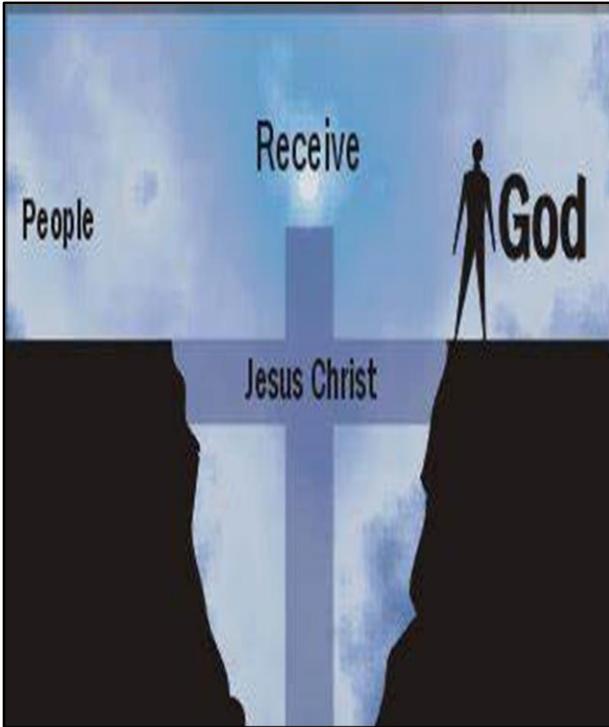
We are to not to be weary in doing good works such as these because we will reap a harvest if we do not give up!!

QUESTIONS



- How should we respond when a fellow Christian "falls in sin" (v1)
- To what "law of Christ" does verse 2 refer?
- How might we deceive ourselves (3) and how can we overcome this (4)
- What does verse 5 mean?
- With whom must we share and why?
- How do some people think that they can outsmart God? (vs 7)
- Explain the phrase "sows to his own flesh" and its results?
- What causes some believers to lose heart?
- Describe a time when a fellow believer did something good for you.
- What do you think was Paul's "thorn in the flesh"?
- What might someone do today to "avoid being persecuted"? (v 12)
- Describe the type of boasting that pleases God? (v 14)
- How did Paul's physical body testify to his relationship with Jesus?





THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Salvation comes through a cross and a crucified Christ

Andrew Murray

