

March 4, 2012

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

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Galatians 6

“Do Good To All Men, Part One”

- I. The Gospel of Grace Alone Through Faith Alone in the Finished Work of Christ Alone Defended (1:1-2:21)
- II. The Gospel of Grace Alone Through Faith Alone in the Finished Work of Christ Alone Explained (3:1-4:31)
- III. The Gospel of Grace Alone Through Faith Alone in the Finished Work of Christ Alone Applied (5:1-6:18)
 - A. Position of Liberty: Stand Fast (5:1-12)
 - B. Practice of Liberty: Love One Another (5:13-15)
 - C. Power for Liberty: Walk in the Spirit (5:16-26)

D. Performance in Liberty: Do Good to all Men (6:1-16)

The way chapter 6 is often viewed: general concluding admonitions from Paul to Galatians. No direct connection to preceding material.

- v. 1 – “any trespass” = sin in general; “tempted” to sin in general
- v. 2 – “Bear one another’s burdens” = burdens in general
- v. 3 – “thinks he is something” = pride in general
- v. 4 – boasting here is a good thing after you have examined yourself
- v. 5 – “bear is own load” = what God has gifted and called you to do. Do it faithfully.
- v. 6 – meet physical needs of those who teach you
- v. 7 – general principle of sowing & reaping
- v. 8 – sow the right seed to get a good moral change in your life
- v. 9-10 – persevere in serving people in general; don’t get tired and quit
- v. 11ff – Paul just adding some finishing thoughts
- v. 11 – so they would know Paul wrote it
- v. 12-13 – the motive of the legalists
- v. 14 – Paul’s motive
- v. 15f – doesn’t matter if you are circumcised
- v. 17 – Paul asking people to stop bothering him because he has already been through enough
- v. 18 – generic “grace” conclusion to the Epistle

Observations:

- Why does chapter 5 end the way it does with a warning about being boastful, challenging, and envying?
- What is the trespass in 6:1? Why look to yourself to avoid temptation? Temptation to what?
- Alternative view (key words in chapters 5 & 6 demonstrate a clear connection):
 - Brethren (5:13; 6:1, 18)
 - Circumcision (5:2, 11; 6:12, 13, 15)
 - Persecuted (5:11; 6:12, cp. 6:17)
 - Law fulfilled (5:13-14; 6:2; cp. 6:13-Law not kept)
 - Bite and devour one another (5:15); boastful, challenging, envying one another (5:26)
 - Spirit vs. flesh (5:16-26; 6:1, 8, 18)
 - Walk (5:16 - peripateō, 25 - stoicheō; 6:16 - stoicheō)
 - Good (6:6 - agathos, 9 - kalos, 10 - agathos, 12 - euprosōpeō)
 - Deceives / deceived (6:3, 7)
 - Boastful / boasting / boast (5:26; 6:4, 13, 14)
 - Sow / reap (6:7, 8, 9)
 - Corruption / eternal life (contrasted in 6:8)

1. Bearing the Burden of Grace vs. Law (6:1-5)

Discussion Questions:

1. When studying the Bible, what is the difference between “interpretation,” “principles,” and “application”? Which one must come first, second, third? What might happen if you study the Bible out of that sequence? (Example: Jer. 29:11; Mt. 18:19-20)
2. How important is it to OBSERVE the text of the Bible in its context before interpreting it? What are some things you should do when you observe the text? What kind of questions should you ask?
3. What has been the focus of the book of Galatians in chapters 1-5? Do you think it has changed in chapter 6? If so, why? If not, why not?
4. What is the “different” or “distorted” gospel that was being proclaimed to the Galatians (cf. 1:6-9)? What is the true gospel Paul has proclaimed? How does either Legalism or License distort the gospel?
5. Read Gal. 5:25-26. How easy is it to fall into Legalism or License? Give some examples of how easily it has happened in your life.
6. What are some specific areas of Legalism or License that have crept into the church and become acceptable? How would a proper understanding of Galatians help us see these things more clearly?
7. Why does Paul tell those who are “spiritual” to help the person who has been “caught in any trespass”? According to chapter 5 what does it mean to be “spiritual”? Why do they have to look to themselves so that they will not be tempted? Tempted to what?
8. How do Legalism & License lead to boasting in self? According to Paul what is the one and only thing in which he would boast?
9. Why does a proper understanding and application of the gospel lead to persecution? Why would people persecute someone who believes in God’s grace? Why is that offensive to a person who sows to their flesh?
10. Are you spiritual right now? If not, what will you do about it?
11. Who do you know that needs help overcoming Legalism or License? What will you prayerfully do to help them overcome this problem and learn to walk by the Spirit?