

FREE – Galatians, Part 4

The dilemma that Paul faced in the book of Galatians is still with us in 21st century Christendom. On one side Paul had the LEGALISTS who were trying to add the LAW to the gospel. On the other side Paul had the LIBERTARIANS who were trying to add the WORLD to the gospel. On one side was FALSE RIGHTEOUSNESS; on the other side was FALSE FREEDOM. And Paul considered both extremes to be enemies of the cross of Christ. As a result, he had enemies and critics on both sides!

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

“overtaken” = carries the idea of being surprised – not deliberate sin!

- Legalists don't restore because they use others' failings to make themselves look better.
- Libertarians don't restore because they use other's failings as an excuse for their own disobedience.

Galatians 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:5 For every man shall bear his own burden.

There is no contradiction between these verses, because two different words for BURDEN are used. In v.2 it means “a heavy burden” but in v.5 it means “a soldier's pack.” We should help each other bear the heavy crises of life, but there are personal responsibilities that every man must bear for himself. **EVERY SOLDIER MUST BEAR HIS OWN PACK!**

The church is not a Welfare Agency! While we are called to be compassionate in a crisis, we are also called to obey Scripture.

1 Timothy 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

But furthermore, in the context of this chapter, every man has a responsibility to live God's commandments as an individual! It is not enough to be part of a church that lives God's commandments!

Galatians 6:4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

Galatians 6:7-9 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

“YOU CAN'T MAKE A FOOL OUT OF GOD!”

There is a NEGATIVE and a POSITIVE side to the “harvest principle.” (We often only emphasize the negative side.)

We will reap WHAT we sow – we cannot change the harvest.

“What a tragedy to live with the consequences of forgiven sin.”

“soweth” – a continuing action; a process unfolding over time

We will reap in PROPORTION to what we have sown.

2 Corinthians 9:6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

It takes TIME for a crop to grow! (“in due season”)

The emphasis here is mostly positive – don't be weary!

In the context of the book of Galatians, many had become “weary” at the discipline it required to be an Apostolic Christian.

Malachi 1:13 Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the Lord of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the Lord.

There is a harvest for faithfulness!
There is a harvest for holiness!

Galatians 6:17 From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

Suffering marks a person
Sin marks a person
Legalism marks a person
Libertarianism marks a person

And JESUS marks a person!