

Galatians, Chapter Six, Lesson One

SPIRITUAL RESTORATION Galatians 6:1-5

STIMULATE

** Our past two studies were focused on the concept of living our life under the control of God's Holy Spirit, rather than the control of our sinful flesh. We concluded chapter five of Paul's letter to the Galatians by asking this question; "How can I yield my heart to the Holy Spirit even more so that He would be free to produce His fruit in me"?

We learned the answer to be, "Anything in this life that would pull at me to disobey the Lord, I must simply let it go!"

** Have you become more aware of the Holy Spirit's fruit in your life as you let go of the fleshly desires that want to pull at your heart?

Absolutely, that is so! When we deny the flesh and its appetites, the result will be the fruit of the Spirit in our life.

MOTIVATE

** Continuing his theme of living our life under the control of the Holy Spirit, Paul begins to wrap up his love letter to the Galatians. Over the next month we get to watch him instruct his children in the faith on the subjects of:

- 1) **Spiritual Restoration** - Galatians 6:1-5
- 2) **Spiritual Reaping** - Galatians 6:6-10
- 3) **Spiritual Reward** - Galatians 6:11-18

** For today, as we go walking through our daily life with Jesus Christ, what are we to do when we find a brother or sister who has become entangled in a pattern of sin? How are we to do it, and what are the dangers involved? For the answers please join me now in Galatians 6:1-5, as the apostle Paul shows us how to have a ministry of "Spiritual Restoration".

Read Passage (V. 1-5)

Opening Prayer

Spiritual Restoration

INVESTIGATE

V. 1 ** What term does Paul use to introduce his next thought in a loving manner?

Brethren [adelphos] - Paul wants to identify with his reader and express his loving concern for them, before introducing a very delicate subject.

** How does this cautious approach differ from the sin we saw in the previous verse at the end of chapter five?

When Christians become boastful about their spirituality, they end up challenging and envying one another, with no concern for how their words might be received. Paul (the exact opposite of boastfulness) is very concerned that the Galatians will be able to hear, understand and apply what he is about to teach them.

** What is the greatest threat to the unity of the body of Christ, and to our ability to let the Holy Spirit control our individual lives?

Sin, or trespasses [paraptoma], literally "a false step" - both personal and corporate. That word comes from yet another word [parapipto] which means "to fall in, into or away, to fail". This trespass then is an act where the sinner takes "a false step into or away from the expressed will of God and fails to allow the Holy Spirit the control of their lives in that moment".

** What do you suppose Paul means as he refers to someone being "caught in any trespass"?

There are two possibilities...

- 1) Someone "catches" you committing a sin that you have set out to do...or
- 2) The sin that you have flirted with (thinking that you can handle the temptation) catches you and you become enslaved to its power.

** The second possibility is most likely, given the Greek sentence structure. So if someone has been overpowered by some sinful pattern in their life, who is to come to their rescue according to Paul?

"...you who are spiritual..."

** Who is that?

It is the very ones that we have been discussing. Those who allow the Holy Spirit to control their lives and thereby see Him produce His fruit in them. cf. Galatians 5:16, 22-23

Paul's use of the phrase "you who are spiritual" is in direct contrast to those who call themselves Christians, but live fleshly or carnal lives. All see - 1Corinthians 3:1-3, Romans 15:1-4

Now back in Galatians 6:1

** When the "spiritual" Christian comes to the aid of his sinning brother, what is it that he is supposed to do?

"...restore such a one..." Remember, that is the goal! We are not looking to excommunicate or trash someone because they have been overtaken by sin!

** What is the process of restoration?

The term literally means "mend or repair", it was used to describe the setting of a broken bone or dislocated limb. This involves a tender touch, and abiding love for the patient! To see this process in action, listen to the following passages:

Matthew 18:15-17, 2Thessalonians 3:14-15, Romans 15:14

** Well, how do we go about this "restoring" ministry, as headhunters looking for a victim?

God forbid! Rather, we do it with a "spirit of gentleness". We must be sure that our brother or sister can hear our encouragement in love and not be blown over by our zeal or aggressiveness.

**** How do we know that we are qualified to be gentle?**

If we are the "spiritual ones", we are walking by the Spirit and under His control. Therefore we are producing His fruit, which includes gentleness.

**** What caution does Paul offer to the spiritual Christian?**

"...each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted." Paul is saying, "Be careful! You could fall into the same snare as your brother." cf. 1Corinthians 10:12

V. 2 ** According to verse two, what are we to do which will complete the ministry of "Spiritual Restoration"?

We are to be bearing "one another's burdens".

**** How did that compare to the view held by the Judaizer or Pharisee of that day?**

They did not care about the Galatians or anyone else. They only piled on heavy loads of legalism, without any concern for the one who would become a victim of their heresy. cf. Matthew 23:1-4

**** Even though this is a general term for "burdens", what do you suppose Paul had in mind contextually?**

He wants us to help our brother overcome the weight of persistent sin and the temptations that will follow even genuine repentance.

**** As we come along side our brother in this ministry of Spiritual Restoration, and carry each other's burden, what are we accomplishing?**

We are fulfilling "...the law of Christ" cf. John 13:34-35 and Galatians 5:14

V. 3 ** What attitude could prevent you from coming along side your brother and carrying his burden?

Pride - Self exaltation! Thinking you are better than he is, or that his problem could never happen to you. cf. 2Corinthians 10:12, Romans 12:3

Again, the Pharisees were notorious for this kind of prideful self-righteousness.
All see - Luke 18:9-14

**** Back in Galatians 6:3, what has this self-righteous person done to himself?**

He has deceived himself! If it weren't for Christ in our life, we would equal zero. cf. John 15:5

V. 4 ** To prevent us from being prideful, what does Paul call us to do?

"...let each one examine his own work..."

**** What is that calling for as we look inward?**

Honesty, the integrity to see who we really are and to give God the glory.
cf. 1Corinthians 11:28, 2Corinthians 13:5

** Should we base the results of our self-examination on how bad other people are, therefore making us look good?

No, Paul says this examination is "in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another."

** After a close look at who we are in Christ, if we find a "redeeming" quality, should we boast on our behalf because of a job well done?

Absolutely not! "But he who boasts, let him boast in the Lord. For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends." (2Corinthians 10:17-18)
cf. 1Corinthians 4:1-5, Psalm 115:1

V. 5 ** As we move into verse 5, does Paul change his mind about us carrying each others burdens?

No, while it may seem to be in contradiction to verse two, a quick word study will help us to understand what he is saying.

V.2 - burdens [baros] - means heavy loads that are difficult to lift or carry.

V.5 - load [phortion] - this refers to anything that is carried without any connection to difficulty.

** So, what is Paul saying?

We are responsible for how we "carry" ourselves as Christians, and will give an account to the Lord. cf. 1Corinthians 3:11-14, 2Corinthians 5:10

Remember, Jesus said "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My load is light." (Matthew 11:29-30)

While we are responsible for how we walk as Christians, the load we must carry is "light" if we allow the Holy Spirit to control us at all times.

EXTRICATE

** What are we to do when we find a brother or sister who has become entangled in a pattern of sin?

By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are to restore them to the Lord.

** How, or in what manner, are we to do it?

"...in a spirit of gentleness..." The very fruit of the Holy Spirit which indwells us!

** What are the dangers involved?

- 1) We too could become tempted in the same sin.
- 2) Worse, we could become prideful thinking we are better than the one that the Lord has called us to help.
- 3) We could deceive ourselves, and walk off in the spiritual pride of the Pharisees!

DELINEATE

** What are some actions or attitudes that we have seen in today's passage that are worthy of imitation?

- 1) Spirituality - being controlled by the Holy Spirit always.
- 2) Restoration - in a spirit of gentleness.
- 3) Humility - do not over-rate yourself.
- 4) Self-exam - display integrity, as you look for God's work in your heart.
- 5) Glorify God - boast only in Christ.
- 6) No Comparing - do not compare myself with someone I feel is worse off, just to make me feel better about myself.
- 7) Accounting - I need to remember that I will give an account to the Lord for how I have brought Him glory.

EVALUATE

** Are there any sins we are to avoid in our passage?

- 1) Harsh attitudes regarding the sins of others.
- 2) Prideful spirit, thinking I am something.
- 3) Failure to come to my brother's help.

ACTIVATE

** Are you prepared for the ministry of "Spiritual Restoration"? As we close our study for today, please look with me at 2Timothy 2:15. Read verse.

Let's ask the Lord to help us to be approved to God and help us to handle His word accurately, for the rescue of souls caught up in sin.

Closing Prayer