

## GALATIANS

<b>Galatians 1:1-10</b>	<b>ONLY ONE GOSPEL</b>
<b>Galatians 1:11-24</b>	<b>ONLY ONE PAUL</b>
<b>Galatians 2:1-10</b>	<b>THE ISSUE OF GENTILE BELIEVERS</b>
<b>Galatians 2:11-21</b>	<b>JUSTIFICATION - BY FAITH ALONE</b>
<b>Galatians 3:1-14</b>	<b>ABRAHAM - MAN of FAITH</b>
<b>Galatians 3:15-29</b>	<b>GOD'S LAW and GOD'S PROMISE</b>
<b>Galatians 4:1-18</b>	<b>BELIEVERS - SONS or SLAVES?</b>
<b>Galatians 4:19-31</b>	<b>BELIEVERS - CHILDREN of SARAH or CHILDREN of HAGAR?</b>
<b>Galatians 5:1-15</b>	<b>LIVING IN FREEDOM</b>
<b>Galatians 5:16-26</b>	<b>LIVING BY THE SPIRIT</b>
<b>Galatians 6:1-10</b>	<b>LIVING FOR OTHERS</b>
<b>Galatians 6:11-18</b>	<b>BOASTING ONLY IN THE CROSS</b>
	<b>TWO ANTIOCHS</b>

### Some key passages:

<b>1:3-4</b>	<b>The Heart of the Gospel.</b>
<b>1:8-9</b>	<b>The Purity and Unity of the Gospel.</b>
<b>2:16, 20</b>	<b>The Life of the gospel.</b>
<b>3:11</b>	<b>The way of life for the Christian.</b>
<b>3:22-24</b>	<b>The schoolmaster to bring us to Christ.</b>
<b>4:4-7</b>	<b>The fullness of time.</b>
<b>4:22-31</b>	<b>The great allegory.</b>
<b>5:19-26</b>	<b>Works of the flesh and fruit of the Spirit.</b>
<b>6:7</b>	<b>Law of sowing and reaping.</b>

## **Galatians 6:1-10**

## **LIVING FOR OTHERS**

*Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.* 6:10

FREEDOM IS A GOAL for which people have fought and given their lives throughout the centuries. The United States came into being because of the desire to be free. An inmate of an Alabama prison, serving life without parole for murder, told me that the thing he despised most about being in prison was that there was absolutely no privacy or freedom; he made no decisions about what he would do or when he would do it.

But freedom does not mean lawlessness. A civilized society and a sane family has rules based on Biblical values.

In Christ, believers are freed from legalism; but believers are not free to indulge the lusts of the flesh. Rather, believers are free to serve one another with the "fruit of the Spirit." In practical ways, how may we love our neighbor as ourselves, especially a fellow believer?

### **1. RESTORING A SINNING BROTHER**

**6:1-2**

Believers are subject to being overtaken by sin. One of the indications of our walking in the Spirit is how we deal with the knowledge of a fellow believer's sin. Some "holier than thou" types shun the offender. Some, who are probably in worse shape spiritually themselves, gossip about the offender with no intent to be helpful.

The Bible gives us three things to do with the goal of restoring a fellow believer.

First, do whatever is necessary to bring about wholeness in that person's life, and wholeness within the fellowship of the church. The word used here sometimes refers to mending fishing nets or setting broken bones. It implies correction and healing of the breach that has come between the one who has sinned and other believers in the church.

Second, the restoration is to be done gently, or in the spirit of meekness. We are to examine ourselves because we are all subject to the same sin. A person who thinks that they are above any particular sin is deceived about their sinful nature.

And Third, we are to bear one another's burdens. [*baros* Greek, heavy burden]

## **2. EXAMINING OURSELVES**

**6:3-5**

A good way to help others is to examine ourselves. By what standard? If we use the world's standards of "success" we are likely to be deceived. Instead of comparing ourselves to others we are to use God's standards.

If we meet the standards of Scripture, e.g., Galatians 5:22-26, then there is a valid basis for rejoicing and not boasting. We will discover that we too, have a "load to carry." [*phortion* Greek, something to be carried without reference to weight.

## **3. SHARING WITH OTHERS**

**6:6**

There is the practical matter of material resources. Teachers are not to take advantage of those whom they serve. But believers who are helped by the ministry of pastors and teachers have an obligation to support them.

## **4. SOWING AND REAPING.**

**6:7-9**

While this admonishment has to do with what Paul just said about sharing material blessings, it must have broader application. What should a person expect to be the result of a life lived in the "works of the flesh?"

"Just keep on keeping on!" Verse 9 is an encouragement to anyone who is sincerely trying to be useful to other people.

My cynical comment: "No good deed goes unpunished."

One of the ways we can imitate Jesus "who went about doing good ..." {Acts 10:38} is to find ways to help other people and not just take up space.

## **5. SUMMING UP**

**6:10**

In summary of the "so what" part of this letter, Paul says to take every opportunity to help anyone. We have a special obligation to fellow believers.

Who have you helped recently?

## **Galatians 6:11-18**

## **BOASTING ONLY IN THE CROSS**

*May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.* 6:14

ONE THING IS CERTAIN; Galatians teaches that justification is by faith alone and not by works! The Gospel is unique! This thesis of Galatians is well-established by God in the justification of Abraham as the "father of the faithful" many years before the Law was given through Moses. The "children of Abraham" are by faith - not slaves of the law; like Isaac, the freeborn son of Abraham - not like Ishmael, the child born of a slave woman.

As freed people, believers may serve one another in love in the "fruit of the Spirit," and not serve the "works of the flesh."

### **1. PAUL'S PENMANSHIP**

**6:11**

What does Paul mean in verse 11 by the comment on "large letters?"  
the longest letter he himself penned?  
a problem with his eyesight?  
a personal touch to add emphasis?

### **2. BOASTING ABOUT THE FLESH**

**6:12-13**

What is the motivation of the Judaizers?  
to look good? [Greek "fair of face"]  
to avoid persecution from the Jews?  
to boast about having converted the Galatians?

The built-in contradiction of the Judaizers was that even those who counted on circumcision "in order to" be saved could not keep the law. Justification by law-keeping demands keeping every portion of the law and not just circumcision.

### **3. BOASTING IN THE CROSS**

**6:14-16**

Discuss the meaning of being "crucified" as used in verse 14.

Here too, we have another one of those eschatological references.  
Who is the Israel of God? Cf. Romans 9:6-8

### **4. BRANDED BY JESUS**

**6:17-18**

Paul closes with an appeal that they not trouble him by falling for the lies of the Judaizers. Rather than circumcision, consider the marks gained through following Christ. Remember grace.