

Sunday, May 16, 2003—Grace Life School of Theology—Understanding Galatians and the Law—Galatians 6:4-10

Galatians 6:4-5

- *“But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. 5) For every man shall bear his own burden.”*
- The word “but” contrasts what Paul said in verse three with what he is now saying in verse four. This is Paul’s answer to the person who has a high opinion of themselves.
- The Greek word translated “prove” means to test, examine, prove, scrutinize (to see whether a thing is genuine or not), as metals.
 - Romans 12:2
 - I Corinthians 3:13—“try every man’s work”
 - I Corinthians 11:28—“examine himself”
 - II Corinthians 13:5
 - Philippians 1:10
- I Corinthians 2:14-16
- II Corinthians 10:12, 18—the best way to combat a self-conceited bragger who is taking credit for what others have done is to make him meticulously examine his own work.
- II Timothy 2:15—rejoicing in only reserved for those who show themselves approved unto God.
- “We sure are shaking this bridge,” said the flea to the elephant as they walked over it together.
- The bottom line in verse five is the believer is responsible to take care of themselves.

Galatians 6:6

- *“Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.”*
- Paul is saying that those who are instructed in word and doctrine need to share with the one who is doing the teaching.
 - Romans 15:25-27
 - Philippians 4:14-18
 - I Corinthians 9:1-14

Galatians 6:7-8

- *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8) 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.”*

- “Be not deceived; God is not mocked,” is not merely a piece of constructive criticism. Rather Paul is using strong language to caution the Galatians.
- Paul is saying that we should not kid ourselves about the results of sowing to the flesh or the Spirit in our lives. If you sow apple seeds what do you get? Apples. If you sow corn kernels what do you get? Corn. Likewise, if we sow to our flesh we will reap corruption that results from sin. On the other hand, if sow to the Spirit we will reap the spiritual life the Spirit produces.
- Genesis 1:11-12—if you plant one grain of corn do you only get one ear of corn? No, you get an entire stalk with many ears of corn.
- John 4:36-37—the seed we sow can be reaped by other people and either positively or negatively affect them.
- Psalm 126:5—what someone else sows we might reap.
- Verse 8 is extremely clear and needs little explanation.
- I Corinthians 3:9-15—those who sow to the flesh will reap corruptible things while those who sow to the Spirit will reap incorruptible things.
- I Timothy 6:12, 19—these verses are talking about us fully enjoying the salvation that has been given to us in Jesus Christ.
- What we chose to sow to does not only affect us. This harkens back to what we saw in the previous lesson, Paul expects believers to take care of others as well as themselves. The best way to do this is by sowing to the flesh.

Galatians 6:9

- *“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”*
- Paul says let us not grow tired of trying to do the right thing. This admonition implies that there is a tendency on the part of believers to want to give up and quit, as far as Christian living, testimony, and ministry are concerned.
- I Corinthians 15:58—Paul does not want us to get weary of trying to walk in the Spirit.
- We need to keep sowing in the field of the Spirit. The Devil always makes sure that well doing is more difficult than wrongdoing.
- *“In due season”* the time will come where the fruit of our labor will be realized. It might not be when we want it to but we still cannot quit doing the work.
- II Timothy 4:1-4—we need to keep preaching the right thing even when people don’t want to hear what we have to say.

Galatians 6:10

- *“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”*
- This verse is very clear, when the opportunity presents itself we need to do good unto all men.
- Our action often speak louder than our words when it comes to the issue of Christian testimony.
- *“especially”* means most of all, or chiefly
- Romans 15:1-3
- Ephesians 4:16—the Body of Christ is supposed to edify itself. This cannot occur without the members of the body doing good to each other.