

Grace Bible Church
Adult Elective Fall 2016
Topic: Galatians
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(Text: Swindoll's Living Insights - Galatians)

Galatians Chapter 5:26-6:18

- Intro To The End
 - When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to relate rightly to God as well as to those around us. Our calling (the same general calling for us all!) is to reach others for Christ which we can do with the Holy Spirit's empowerment (which is really what being filled with the Holy Spirit means).
- V. 26 (of Chapter 5)
 - This verse takes us from the contrast of the flesh and the Spirit into an examination of the outworking power of the Spirit in our lives and in the lives of those around us.
 - Flesh: I live for me.
 - Spirit: I live for others.
 - We should not boast because we know that who and what we are is only because of God's grace on our lives.
 - We should not provoke (challenge) others because we are to show others the same grace which has been shown to us.
 - We should not envy others because we are to practice grace within ourselves in being content with who and what we are (in Christ).
- Vv. 1-6 (of Chapter 6)
 - These verses closely examine what relating to others (in the Spirit) looks like.
 - We are to restore those who fall (without falling ourselves).
 - As believers, we are to care deeply for one another (and be responsible for one another).
 - Sinners are both perpetrators of sin and also victims of temptation.
 - Perhaps this will give us proper perspective in being concerned for believers in sin and in assisting them in restoration (of their relationship with God and others).
 - Those believers doing the restoration are to be "spiritual". This does not mean without sin. No one is without sin (save Christ). This means that the believer doing the restoration is to have moral clarity on the issue(s) at hand and to not be in the same sin themselves. They are to be "right" before God and in a proper relationship with Him. cf. Ephesians 4:15

- Restoration implies a bringing back to the standing one once had. In other words, the restored individual should be brought to right standing before God and also to right standing with those of the church so that s/he can again function as a productive member of the body (with his/her spiritual gifting, etc.).
 - We should all be aware of our own ability to fall into the very same sins/temptations.
 - We are to bear one another's burdens according to Christ's law.
 - We are not self-sufficient (v. 2-3). We all have "issues", and we all need each other.
 - This does not refer to the Old Testament Law of Moses, but instead refers to our lives reflecting the character of Christ (grace and mercy!!!).
 - We are to take personal responsibility with humility.
 - We are responsible before God for our own lives and ministries (and not that of others).
 - We should boast in the power of the Holy Spirit and His work in us (not in our own power).
 - Walter Hansen notes that in v. 2 (Gk. baros) the text refers to coming to the aid of others who cannot carry the burden of their sin while v. 5 (Gk. phortion) refers to the load given to us by God (our talents, abilities, etc.).
 - We are to support those who teach generously.
 - Focusing one's life on God's Word takes time and dedication. As such, the minister should be supported by the church.
- Vv. 7-10
 - If we sow in the flesh, we will reap the selfish returns. If we sow in the Spirit, we will reap the Spiritual returns. cf. 1 Corinthians 3:13-15
 - Sowing in the flesh: gratifying one's self.
 - Sowing in the Spirit: pleasing the Spirit (and helping others!).
 - meeting needs, encouraging, praying for others, helping others, etc.
- V. 11
 - To emphasize his involvement and oversight, Paul here personally lets his audience know that he is writing the closing comments/thoughts himself.
- Vv. 12-13
 - Paul begins his conclusion by letting his audience know the "big idea": There is a difference between the outward show and the inner heart.
 - The Galatians were persecuted from the outside (Rome) and the inside (Jerusalem).
 - To Jerusalem, circumcision would show the Galatians were submitting to Judaism (not a new "cult") and would be tolerated.
 - To Rome, circumcision would show the Galatians were really "Jewish" (an accepted Roman religion) and would be tolerated.

- In rejecting circumcision, the Galatians would face persecution from both sides....
 - How are we like the Judaizers? What do we do to avoid "persecution"?
- Vv. 14-16
 - Paul tells the Galatians to boast of their new lives in Christ (and what He has done for them). Christianity isn't about us. It is about God.
 - When we focus on Christ, we lose focus on the world around us.
 - Walking with Christ via the power of the Spirit gives us true peace (the "Israel of God").
- Vv. 17-18
 - Paul bore the marks of Christ (the suffering he endured for Jesus) -> see 2 Cor. 11:24-28
 - What the Judaizers wished to avoid, Paul endured. And, he endured it with the help of the Holy Spirit so that Christ would be advanced. That is our calling, too!!!