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Galatians 6

Bear One Another's Burdens

1Brethren, 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.

There are certain Christian denominations and some Christians as well, that are known for; “killing their wounded”. If someone is found to be in sin, they are removed immediately from fellowship with no effort to bring them back into a fellowship with Christ or if it is an individual that is offended by another Christian, they simply discontinue fellowship at the first notice of any sin in their lives. It can extend to even disagreeing with a fellow believer over a doctrinal issue. God has had a few things to say about division, I won't go into but you might imagine God's position on division.

I have been guilty of condemning people that have fallen into sin as Christians and not showing the compassion I would want if in their shoes; and I am a worse sinner than they are.

There is a course or process in my understanding of what constitutes a “restorative” effort on our part. The restoration is not lateral between humans, that can be a side effect but the restoration is from the fallen Christian to Jesus. That course centers on “repentance” not to us but to God. Even though it is possible to be rejected by a fellow believer when extending an offer of a restorative process, that usually would not happen. It is more likely if dealing with a True fellow believer and they have been caught in sin that they would readily and with great remorse jump at the opportunity of restoration to Christ.

If a believer falls into sin, not just once but repeatedly in the same or similar sin and they refuse to repent or acknowledge their sin they are in grave danger and we as fellow believers need to help them come to that point of repentance, with a meek spirit.

Sometimes they won't listen to us or give us the time of day. It is unclear as to why; it may be that we have been arrogant in our interaction with them at some time in the past. It may be a lack of humbleness in our manner of speaking, it could be a lot of reasons, but what they cannot stop us from doing is praying for them in private.

There are believers and even non-believers who through Wisdom, and Grace know they need help and would seek help from their

brothers and sisters or people they perceive to be Christians. The believers who know they need to repent and seek other believers to aid them in that repentance if they feel they cannot repent to God alone or at first show a knowledge of wisdom. When they show this type of Godly wisdom, we need to return that effort again with a spirit of meekness.

The last sinner is one who might claim Christianity or are simply non-believers and continue in their sin with no desire to repent or seek forgiveness. Any effort we try seems to meet a stone wall. We should first pray about God's desired approach, check and make certain we are humble in our approach with a contrite spirit. If that is the case and we have done nothing to offend them; a good idea would be to ask them if we have offended them. If they tell us we have offended them, we need to repent of that with them and with God. If the offense they claim is that they do not want to hear about God from us then of course we won't repent of that but we can acquiesce to their request and continue to pray for them in private. Allow God to open a door that we can walk through with that person, but we need to make sure we are humble in that approach.

If we are convinced that we attempted in a humble manner and they refuse to listen to anyone, we are told at a certain point to

release them to Satan and that may cause them to repent in order to save their soul but likely lose their lives. In 1 Corinthians 5, Paul is speaking to the church about a specific individual who is in an ongoing sin relationship and this is what Paul states that God desires to be done.

1 Corinthians 5:5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

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

We are all busy, but to pick up a burden or part of a burden from another person, believer or not is perhaps the best way to bring Christ to them. It is the essence of “Love your neighbor as yourself”, doing something for someone with no expectation of anything in return.

3For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

I am guilty of this as any man, we perceive ourselves usually in a higher light than those around us. Jesus was humble not giving into His pride in that He was God. He served mankind in the humblest ways. We are being warned to try and see ourselves as others see us and not give ourselves any credit; allow others to

do that otherwise we are likely to deceive ourselves as being better than we really are.

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

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Philippians 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Our works if not founded in God and encouraged by God are as God calls our most self-righteous acts; “filthy rags” and fall under the Law. On the other hand, if our works are generated by God by Christ for God, for Christ then they have the essence of Heavenly Righteousness. Our rejoicing is not based on what we accomplish but what Jesus accomplishes through us. It is not for us to even reflect on those acts, they are for Jesus to reflect on; we are just a messenger a clay pot so to speak that was created to do a certain thing for God’s sake. If we do that thing, we were made to do then what do we have to boast in. Let Jesus boast about us to God if He see so fit to do so.

5For every man shall bear his own burden.

Matthew 11:30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

The heavy burden we carry is not from Christ; His burden is light and easy. The heavy burdens we seem to want to carry are those that involve, sin, self-esteem; generated by pride in our own work, not in the work we were designed and made to carry out in His Name.

Q. Burdens come in many forms, what are some that you can think of?

6Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. 7Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

There are some verses that seem so common sensical that they seem unneeded. Because this caution is included though simply tells us that “common sense” is not so common. Lest anyone think that you can do as you please without repercussions be aware that what you sow – IE: in the flesh, you will reap that crop from the flesh. This is not meant to be offensive but what you put your time into that is sowing; for example, if you desire is to prove some Biblical Issue with science and your endeavor is in science then you will reap from that arena; science is of man, the flesh and the crop will be from that. If, however you can reach the point

of simply believing what God says and study the Bible to verify what you have learned by searching out God's Word then you will be at peace.

Those burdens we consider just a minute ago are also of this idea of sowing. Those things we know we spend our time sowing in, whatever they are if they are not from and about God will simply grow up and demand our time to harvest. They draw us away from what is important; with this very little time we have consider carefully the things you will spend you limited time on.

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8For 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.

This word "corruption" could be understood to mean "death". We know God told us that the wages of sin is death.

Romans 6:23 23For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Greek word for corruption is:

Transliteration: phthora

Phonetic Spelling: (fthor-ah')

Definition: destruction, corruption

What we spend our time sowing is what we will in the end reap. If we spend our time building up the flesh in say man's knowledge, then we will reap from that crop of the flesh.

If God's knowledge is represented by the size of the earth, then man's knowledge compared to God's knowledge is barely a speck of dust on the surface of the earth. If we spend our time understanding God's Will during these brief days on this earth, then we will reap an eternity of knowledge from God in His presence.

So, this verse is confirming what God has already told us.

9And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. 10As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

We are repeatedly told to pray for our enemies, take care of our enemies and those are challenging words, but commands no less. We are also supposed to take care of our fellow believers; help them carry their burdens or help them understand that God wants to carry those burdens; exchange our heavy burdensome yoke for His Yoke and He will give us rest.

Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

This burden is not only the struggles of life but also includes the heavy burden of sin in our lives. God wants to give us rest and peace through our relationship with Him. The work was done on the Cross for our benefit to remove that burden of sin we carry in the flesh. When that burden along with the worries of life in general are lifted from us we will have rest in Him.

There is a conversion principal here at work. It will culminate at the Judgement Seat of Christ. If we fill our minds and hearts with the knowledge of Christ and yet do nothing in this world for our neighbors, our friends or for strangers then what use are we?

There is an old saying, “Don’t be so heavenly minded that you are of no earthly good”. If taken in the right way you will see that to know the Word of God and not put it into daily use, makes us useless in carrying out God’s Commandments as Believers. It has nothing to do with salvation, it has everything to do with obedience.

Paul's Final Warning

11Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand. 12As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.

Those who walk in the law do so to be seen as more holy than thou. They walk in fear of persecution by their fellow Jews for not walking in the law. They fear their own brethren more than they fear the Cross.

13For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.

This verse is kin to the old adage; “misery loves company”. When people are in sin, they seek others to join them in that sin; bondage is the same way, if a person is in bondage, they like to have others share that bondage; falsely thinking that if they join in that sin or bondage with me then it will make me look more normal, or even better because we are all doing the same thing. It is a lie; we will each stand for what we have done; as non-believers before the judgement seat of God at the Great White Throne Judgement; As believers before the Throne of Christ at the Bema Seat Judgement.

2 Corinthians 5:10 10For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Romans 14:12 10But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.11For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and

every tongue shall confess to God.¹² So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Both of these verses in context are clearly written for the believer not the unbeliever.

14But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

There is a song titled “I get the Grace, He gets the Glory”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYhOWLaEqvM>

15For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

This is what Paul will call a “rule” in the next verse. It is God’s Will or rule that will bring eternal life to any who believe.

Circumcision was of the Law; it was given by God to Israel as a sign of a covenant. Since the Cross this Law of circumcision “availeth” nothing; it has no standing for the believer. Since the Cross, it is the New Creature that God promises that means anything and means everything.

God’s Will, God’s goal for each of our lives is to be; A NEW CREATURE.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

16And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

Know God, Know Peace, no God, no peace.

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

In 2 Corinthians Paul gives his physical injury bona fides to the Corinthians as a sign of what he has willingly endured for Christ's sake. It is an example of what we should be willing to endure for the Glory to come.

2 Corinthians 11:24Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. 25Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. 28Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. 29Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?

Paul indeed bore the marks of Christ in his body not as a means of glorifying himself but to point to Jesus who gave all to save all.

It is a message, a warning to us, to be prepared and in this day more than ever before is the potential of persecution of Christians

in America. We are seeing pastors that have stood on the grounds of the Constitution for carrying out Biblical direction being persecuted for the stand for Christ and the Word of God.

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

One pastor in California has stacked up over 1.6 million in fines and is threatened with jail if he does not stop meeting on Sunday.

If we don't stand now, when will we stand?

18Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen. {*Unto the Galatians written from Rome.*

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