

The Book of Galatians

Chapter 6

Background

- Written by Paul possibly as early as A.D. 49.
- The purpose of this letter is to counter the spread of false doctrines concerning salvation, especially the false teaching that believers must keep the Law for salvation.
- Outline
 - Defense of the Gospel – Chapters 1-4
 - Application of the Gospel – Chapters 5-6

Chapter 6

I. Walking Together in the Spirit– vs. 1-10

- Recall that the last section of Chapter 5 deals with differing actions resulting of walking in the flesh or in the Spirit. The question addressed here is how to deal with a believer who has sinned through walking in the flesh.
- vs. 1 – Note the responsibility to restore is on the Spiritually strong. This is opposite of how this is often practiced.
- vs. 2 – The “law of Christ” is to love another – John 13:34, 15:12
- vs. 3 – “This is designed, evidently, to be another reason why we should be kind and tender to those who have erred. It is, that even those who are most confident may fall. They who feel secure, and think it impossible that they should sin, are not safe. They may be wholly deceived, and may be nothing, when they have the highest estimate of themselves. They may themselves fall into sin, and have need of all the sympathy and kindness of their brethren.” – Albert Barnes
- vs. 4-5 – Each believer is responsible for their own walk though we may aid or be aided by others along the way.
- vs. 5 – There is no contradiction here with verse 2. The “burden” here is from the Greek *phortion* meaning “freight or cargo; task or service”. The “burden” in verse 2 is from the Greek *baros* which means “weight, load”. We are to help alleviate the weights and cares on others while fulfilling what is required of ourselves.
- vs. 6 – B.H. Carroll paraphrases: “Let the church member who is spiritually instructed contribute in money or kindness, to the one that instructs him.”
- vs. 7-8 – The natural and spiritual Law of Sowing and Reaping.
 - How does this fit with the passage? First, that we sow good seed as we walk in the Spirit. Second, in the investments made in loving and supporting one another.

- vs. 9 – see also I Corinthians 15:58 and Psalm 126:6
- vs. 10 – When should we do good? When we have the opportunity and are able.

II. Closing Remarks – vs. 11-18

- vs. 11 – We can easily prove some of Paul's letters were dictated by him and written by another's hand (e.g., Romans 16:22). The great concern for Paul toward the Galatians is evidenced by the fact that he wrote with difficulty in his own hand.
- vs. 12-13 – Those pushing circumcision and Judaism were not doing it out of love or obedience to the Law, but for their own glory and safety from Jewish persecution.
- vs. 14-15 – Paul was not in competition with the Judaizers. All he sought to magnify was Christ and the Gospel.
- vs. 16 – Note that Paul wishes peace for them following God in pureness of heart. That is quite the opposite of what they had experienced since the false teachers had showed up.
- vs. 17 – Paul's closing retort towards his enemies is that if they want proof of his devotion, dedication, and doctrine, just count the scars he bore from his service to Christ.