

Churches of Galatia: Chapters 4, 5 & 6 (Slide 1)

Bear One Another's Burdens: That's What Families Do!

Reading: Galatians 6:1-18

Summary of Galatians 4 & 5

Christian Liberty

In the first paragraph, **Apostle Paul** is speaking regarding the difference between being “free” and in “bondage.” No one with common sense would choose imprisonment, Physically or Spiritually speaking, over “freedom” that can only be had in Christ.

But that is exactly what these gentile brethren are choosing or at least are being persuaded to lean toward, bondage under the Old Law.

Apostle Paul is stressing the seriousness of the matter when he says;

Galatians 5:2 (Slide 2)

Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing.

I am convinced he is saying if you give into following the law of which you cannot keep perfectly, then you forfeit the freedom, that is; the Grace and Mercy God freely gives through Christ.

When we consider **Apostle Paul's** plea to the Galatians, let us understand that that is what we do if we allow ourselves to be “chained to sin.”

Jesus warns of the chains of sin in:

John 8:34 (Slide 3)

34 Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. 36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. (The Child of God will be Free!)

Apostle Paul states in:

Galatians 4:28-31 (Slide 4)

28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise.

Isaac's birth was miraculous in that God, through the Spirit, promised Abraham and Sarah they would have a son though they were beyond childbearing years. Through the line of Isaac would come the Seed, that is; Christ of which all nations, jews and gentiles alike would be blessed.

Just as the Galatians were, so are we in that we **are children of promise.**

29 But, as he who was born according to the flesh (Ishmael) then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit (Isaac), even so it is now. (Slide 5) 30 Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."

What **Apostle Paul** refers to is recorded back in:

Genesis 21:9-13 (Slide 6)

9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing. The word scoffing means mocking. This was severe mocking and ridicule. **10 Therefore she said to Abraham, "Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, (Slide 7) namely with Isaac."** **11 And the matter was very displeasing in Abraham's sight because of his son.**

12 But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. (Slide 8) Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called. 13 Yet I will also make a nation of the son of the bondwoman, because he is your seed."

Apostle Paul says **even so it is now.** That nation represented by Ishmael are the jews and the blessed nation represented by Isaac are Christians. During **Apostle Paul's** writing to the churches of Galatia, the jews were still mocking Isaac's nation by enticing them to fall back into the traditions of the Old Law.

Galatians 5:31 (Slide 9)

31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.
Today, we are children of the free!!

We are also witnessing in Galatians 5, the *impetuousness* and *impatience* of man. *We want to see something to believe it. We want what we want immediately without having to wait for it.*

We become impatient trying to “*live by faith*” and we don’t recognize that enduring faith leads to “*perfected love.*”

Galatians 5:5-6 (Slide 10)

5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

A legalistic (*going through the motions*) approach to Christianity, in worship, in doing good deeds, in serving our Master, Christ Jesus will do just what the Old Law was doing to our brethren in the churches of Galatia and cause us to **become estranged from Christ (Galatians 5:4a).**

Apostle Paul goes on to say that Christians should use our *liberty/ freedom* in Christ wisely. Not to use it to satisfy the flesh **but through love serve one another. (V13)**

Galatians 5:14-15 (Slide 11)

14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

If we approach our worship service or our service to God with the idea of what’s “in it for me” or I’m coming to show you where you are wrong or to look for what we can find fault with, then we have missed it completely.

Apostle Paul is building towards the idea of the *family dynamic* in Christ's church. Putting the needs of others above our own. This is the true makeup of the church!

Any legality that causes love to become faded hurts the wholesomeness and the wellness of the church!! **Apostle Paul** calls for unity:

Ephesians 4:1-3 (Slide 12)

1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

In the latter part of *Galatians 5*, **Apostle Paul** wants us not only to be unified in the spirit but to “walk in the spirit.” If we all walk in the spirit we have greater ability to combat the passions of the flesh as listed in verses 19-21.

We combat those with the fruits of the spirit listed in verses 22-23. The fruits of the spirit are those spiritual attributes that shape our attitude toward one another and are the “border” of which we personally live our lives.

One of my favorite songs entitled “Oceans,” talks about being led by the spirit. It’s not one we sing in worship but one that I enjoy hearing because of the message. It has this phrase in it:

“Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders”

When someone in our midst is challenged by the burdens of life and is in jeopardy of getting out of those safe borders, we need to be ready to help just like we would if that one were a member of our family. *“Of which they truly are if we walk by the spirit.”*

In **John 16**, Jesus states that He has overcome the world but if we let ourselves get out of the borders of His triumph, without is trouble. Nevertheless, within is peace.

John 16:33 (Slide 13)

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Many things Jesus spoke were meant only for His apostles but this gift of Grace through Him is ours as well!!

We are to be united in Spirit so that we can walk together but if one is in danger of traveling outside of the borders of Christ, we are to come to the rescue in a spirit of humility.

One of the difficult things we struggle with is our inability to remain intensely in-tune with what God has done for us through Christ.

For example, sometimes I think Christians believe since Jesus has overcome the world that we will be instantly vindicated when wronged. Yet, the reality is that *"living by faith"* isn't always an instant response to our conflict especially when it comes to vindication. *"Living by faith requires intense patience."*

We can become so complacent because we have confidence in the fact that Jesus has overcome and begin to feel we don't need to do anything.

If you are a livestock owner, you likely have created a fence, a border so to speak, that surrounds your animals, your livelihood to keep them in and to keep them safe. But from time to time that fence/ border needs attention. It needs repairs. It needs to be checked to make sure it is still secure.

If there is a gaping hole in the fence your livestock becomes vulnerable to escape or to predators. It has to be repaired. It has to be shored up from time to time.

Our lives within the borders that Christ has created, needs to be monitored, sometimes repaired.....otherwise we become vulnerable. We often neglect to do that by becoming impatient in faith and we become vulnerable to all kinds of predatory troubles. But our Church Family safeguards us at all times.

Galatians 6:1-2 (Slide 14)

1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Overtaken comes from a Greek word that means *"surprised."* The one that is ***overtaken in any trespass*** is one who did not intentionally mean to do wrong.

It is one who perhaps has let their guard down and was overtaken by sin in a "*spur of the moment*" situation.

Perhaps it is one who said something in anger which is a response composed because of the circumstance. Not something in any other situation that person would say.

His fence had a hole in it created by circumstance and he became vulnerable to temporary inner conflict.

The church family members are to help restore one in this situation in 'meekness' and not with an attitude that "this would never happen to me."

(Slide 14) **Galatians 6:3**

3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

We cannot go about restoring someone who has a speck in their eye when we have a plank sticking out of our own eye.

How many of us would stand by and watch a brother in Christ carry a couch or chair up a steep flight of stairs without lending a hand?

How many of us would watch a brother or sister struggle to carry a box of books up a flight of stairs without lending a hand or even carrying the load ourselves for them?

We wouldn't, not if we wish to **fulfill the law of Christ** which is based on *loving one another like family*. Jesus loved us so much, he bore/ carried our burden of sin to the cross.

Apostle Paul, toward the end of the chapter gives us an admonition that should ring in our ears like church bells day after day.

That is for us to be *generous* and to do *good*. If we have been taught the scripture by a spiritual teacher, then *in the spirit* we are to help the teacher and pass on the word to others.

He says to put away what we desire for our own flesh and to sow goodness for the good of others and to Glorify God.

Galatians 6:9-10 (Slide 15)

9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Yes, we don't have the challenge of being persuaded to incorporate the works of the Old Law into our Christian walk like the churches of Galatia were being influenced to do.

Nevertheless, we can in so many ways become legalistic, with the absence of true christian love for one another and act only on the basis of "I have too" and not because "I want too."

Brethren, this ought not to be!!!

We are a family in Christ.....

Invitation

This day, Jesus invites you to join the family by being baptised for the remission of sin and becoming a child of God. Don't delay! Do it today!

Perhaps you are a child of God but are trying to carry a burden by yourself when you don't need to do it on your own! If we can help you carry your burden by lifting up your conflict to God in prayer, please let us know.

Make your wish known how we can assist you today.....

Reading

Galatians 6:1-18

1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. 5 For each one shall bear his own load.

6 Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. 9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

11 See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! 12 As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. 13 For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. 14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

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

17 From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

18 Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

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