

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Galatians

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Chapter Thirteen -

GLORY IN THE CROSS OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Galatians 6:1: "**Brethren, 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.**"

You may rest assured that a born again child of GOD should not heap judgment and damnation upon the head of a fellow-believer who has stumbled. A true believer knows that none of us are immune from temptation and sin until we get our glorified body when JESUS comes in the Rapture of the church. There are thousands of church people today who judge their fellow church members by the clothes they wear, the day they worship, the doctrines they hold in their particular organization.

Grace does not emphasize days, rituals, or programs. A born again child of GOD will dress decently and will eat and drink things befitting a child of GOD. The Christian religion is not observing days and feasts, nor abstaining from meats, etc.

A spiritually minded person will be slow to judge another Christian, because the closer we live to GOD, the more we realize how totally dependent we are upon Him for salvation and for victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil. I remind you again, "**Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall!**" Hear these words: "**For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing**" (Romans 7:18a). Paul put no confidence in his flesh (read Philippians 3:3).

In the first verse of Galatians 6 Paul is speaking to the "**brethren**" . . . believers, born again people. He is admonishing them concerning their treatment of a brother who has stumbled. They are not to judge him, condemn him and damn him; but they are to forgive him and restore him.

The man who has stumbled does not need to be pushed down further - he needs to be lifted up. He does not need to be criticized and condemned. A brother who has fallen into sin needs help - not judgment.

We dare not sit in judgment against our brother. The Lord GOD will judge all things at the appointed time. We do not know the circumstances which may have brought to pass the stumbling of a brother. If we faced the same temptation under the same conditions, we might do even worse than the one we are prone to criticize!

If our brother in the Lord is overtaken in a fault, we should restore that brother and help him and encourage him. If we see a brother doing something not becoming to a Christian we should not announce it to the church, but we should attempt to help the brother. If we are spiritually minded, we will hear and obey Paul's admonition to the Corinthians: **"Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God"** (I Corinthians 4:5).

JESUS alone knows the secret of each heart.

He sees the motives of each heart, and He will take care of the judging of believers at the judgment seat of CHRIST when each of us will be rewarded for our faithful stewardship. It is much easier for some to live a victorious life than for others to do so.

Some of you dear people reading these lines have never known sin - you have never dabbled in the world, have never tasted iniquity. Some of the rest of us drank the very dregs of wickedness. We face temptation of which you know nothing. Oh, yes - GOD is able . . . but do not forget that while the Spirit is willing, the flesh is weak.

We will be hounded by the flesh until we receive our glorified bodies.

The number-one desire of the devil is to damn you; but if you give your heart to JESUS and are saved by grace through faith, then the devil declares war on your influence and testimony. He does everything in his ungodly power to rob you of the joy of salvation, the victory of the power of GOD and the full reward that is your spiritual birthright at the end of a consecrated, dedicated, victorious spiritual life.

Verses 2-5: **"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden."**

Paul was speaking to a group who were attempting to keep the Law. He said, "Here is the Law . . . for those of you who want to keep the Law and be under the Law. Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfil the Law of CHRIST. Do not bite and devour one another, do not condemn and judge each other, do not fuss and fight over circumcision and rituals. If you want to practice the Law, then bear one another's burdens. Love one another, be at peace with one another. Be longsuffering and gentle. Be good, be meek, be kind . . . and temperate. Bear one another's burdens if you want to fulfil the Law of CHRIST. Love your neighbor just like you love yourself! Love JESUS with all your heart, soul, spirit, mind and strength, if you want to fulfil the Law!"

In verse 3 Paul attacks self-conceit. There is no place for conceit and pride in the Christian life. It is wonderful to know that we are saved by Grace, kept by the power of GOD, and that in JESUS we possess the fulness of the Godhead bodily, that we are complete in the Lord JESUS CHRIST. Read Colossians 2:9-10. But while we are praising GOD for these glorious facts in

Grace, let it never be forgotten that in the flesh DWELLETH NO GOOD THING (Romans 7:18).

My brother and sister, if you do not commit your flesh to the HOLY GHOST - unreservedly - the flesh will be your downfall spiritually! The devil will use the body in which you live to rob you of the joy and the victory, the assurance, peace and reward that your spiritual birthright guarantees! That is the reason Paul begged the believers at Rome to present their bodies a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2).

In verses 4 and 5 Paul points out that even though we are commanded to bear one another's burdens, we must not forget our own burden . . . that is, **"let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone and not in another, for every man must bear his own burden."**

There are burdens we can bear for others, or which we can help our fellow believer to bear. But there is a personal burden that we must bear, a burden which no one else can bear for us. JESUS said, **"Take up the Cross, and follow Me."** JESUS will do many things for you - but He will not carry for you the Cross you should carry. Therefore, while we are helping others to bear their burdens, there is a responsibility that rests upon the individual because we are sons of GOD. We need to prove our own stewardship, our own work. We need to be careful in all that we do, **"whether... [we] eat, or drink, or whatsoever [we] do,"** we should do it all to the glory of GOD.

Verse 6: **"Let him that is taught in the Word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things."**

The word **"communicate"** used in this verse means "to share." notice it is a command . . . not a suggestion.

It is addressed to those who receive help from teachers of the Word of GOD. The teachers of GOD's Word feed those who hear the Word; thereby, those who hear feed on the spiritual bread and the spiritual meat. The hearers are commanded to share with the teachers . . . that is, the material things, such as food, raiment and money. Read Romans 15:27. Paul wrote to the believers in the church at Corinth and said, **"If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? . . . even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel"** (I Corinthians 9:11-14).

I do not hesitate to say that it is a reflection on any church not to take care of their pastor.

Let me explain: A new church just beginning might not be financially able to take care of a pastor, and the pastor might be forced to work for a season; but after the church has grown to seventy-five or a hundred members or more, it certainly should pay the pastor a living wage in order that he could spend his time ministering to the spiritual needs of the parishioners. The ministry of the Gospel is a full time job. I hate to say this - and yet, say it I must: Preaching is a side line with some ministers. They operate a business and preach on the side. I do not desire to hurt anyone, and the Bible says, **"Touch not mine anointed"** . . . but a minister of the Gospel who spends more time making money in the business world than he spends preaching the Gospel

is using the Gospel as a side line! I repeat - to be the pastor of a church, or to be an evangelist, is a full time job - seven days a week, every hour of every day. So Paul commands the Galatians to share the carnal things with the spiritual leaders.

"They which preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel." Certainly, **"The labourer is worthy of his hire."** The reason so many Christians are so lean and barren spiritually is because they sow sparingly - therefore, they reap sparingly. But if we would sow bountifully, we would reap bountifully. God loves a cheerful giver.

Verses 7-9: **"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 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. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."**

I believe every verse of Scripture has a primary interpretation and application, and I believe it has a secondary application. Paul said in verse 6, **"Let him that is taught in the Word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things,"** and then uses the illustration of sowing and reaping (terms recognized everywhere).

If we sow wheat seed, we reap wheat. If we sow oats, we reap oats. If we sow barley, we reap barley. If we sow corn, we reap corn. So it is in the spiritual realm: If we sow to the flesh - if we satisfy, pamper and pet the flesh, if we feed the flesh, if we spend on the flesh money that we should give to the work of the Lord, then we will reap corruption. But if we sow to the Spirit - if we give our time, talents, and money to further spiritual things, then we will of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

I believe this Scripture goes deeper. A person who follows the flesh, lives for the satisfaction and pleasures of the flesh, will reap corruption in hell forever. Verse 9 declares that we should not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.

There is such a thing as losing your reward. In II John 7-8 we are warned, **"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. LOOK TO YOURSELVES (be careful, watch yourselves), THAT WE LOSE NOT THOSE THINGS WHICH WE HAVE WROUGHT, BUT THAT WE RECEIVE A FULL REWARD."**

This has nothing to do with redemption or salvation of the soul. It is speaking of stewardship. Verses 9, 10 and 11 in the Epistle of II John warn us concerning those who preach any doctrine except the doctrine JESUS preached. If we bring these false teachers into our homes, if we give them money and bid them GOD speed, then we are partaker of their evil deeds and we will lose our reward. It will be a happy day in the lives of many Christians when they distinguish between redemption and reward . . . when they distinguish between salvation and stewardship.

We are saved by Grace - but we are rewarded for our faithful labors. So we should not be weary in well doing, for we will reap eventually - that is, if we faint not. If we faint, we lose our reward. Read I Corinthians 3:11-15.

Verse 10: **"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."**

Read the seventeenth chapter of John carefully, and you will see that JESUS prayed for the believers, and His prayer is primarily in the interest of His children here on earth. We are to do good to all men - but we are to do good especially unto the household of faith . . . Christian brothers and sisters. John tells us the same thing in I John 3:16-19:

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of GOD in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him."

Believers should help believers, should share with believers. We should bear one another's burdens. We should help each other financially when we see a brother in need. We should help each other in any way we can help our fellowman. This old world needs a baptism of real Christian love. Most Christians are entirely too selfish, too self-centered - and most of the time they think only of themselves.

The person who gives his money, his time, his energy in the things of the world and in fleshly interests is sure to reap corruption. But the person who invests time, money and energy in cultivating spiritual and heavenly things is sure to reap a heavenly harvest in life more abundant. In John 10:10 JESUS said, **"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."**

These words should be pointed out here: **"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: His righteousness remaineth for ever. Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God" (II Corinthians 9:6-11).**

The final reaping - the final harvest - will be when the Lord returns: **"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the LORD. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh" (James 5:7-8).** Also read Mark 4:26-29.

In verse 10 of our chapter in Galatians, Paul is summing up the Law of CHRIST concerning giving and doing - first and foremost to the Lord, and then to the brethren as they have need. When we walk in the Spirit, the Spirit will produce the fruit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23.

When we love our fellowman as we should, we will not see him suffer if we are able to help him concerning the material things that have to do with the body. Christianity can be summed up in one short word: LOVE.

GOD is love. We love Him because He first loved us. All the Law and the prophets hang on two commandments:

- (1) Love God with all your heart, mind, soul, strength;
- (2) Love your neighbor as yourself.

Verse 11: **"Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand."** The literal Greek reads, "Ye see with how large letters I have written unto you with mine own hand." Bible scholars believe the Apostle Paul was almost blind when he wrote the Galatian Epistle. He was afflicted, and it is thought he had a disease of the eyes known as "ophthalmia," a disease quite prominent in the east at that time. Ordinarily, Paul dictated his letters, but the Galatian letter was written with his own hand. This is one of the most - if not THE most important of the Epistles the HOLY GHOST dictated to Paul. He wrote with large letters - big letters - because of his very poor eyesight.

Verse 12: **"As 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."**

It seems the Galatians to whom Paul had preached the marvelous grace of GOD - salvation by Grace through faith plus nothing - were like the Pharisees, the Scribes and the hypocrites in the days of JESUS. They wanted to make a fair show. **"For ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity"** (Matthew 23:27-28).

These scorching words were spoken by the Son of GOD, of whom the liberals like to preach as being a great GOD of love who would not permit anyone to be damned or to suffer! Paul rebukes the Galatians for desiring to make a fair show in the flesh. Man looks on the outward appearance, but GOD looks on the heart.

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

Those who had disturbed the Galatian believers were seeking a great number of followers in order that they might be recognized as great leaders, great religionists.

The same is true today. It is a common sin among religionists - and sad to say, also among some true believers - that they desire to build a reputation as great leaders, great ministers. Paul tells the Galatians the only reason the legalizers want them to be circumcised and practice the Law of Moses is simply that they **"may glory in your flesh."**

Verses 14 and 15: **"But 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. For in Christ Jesus**

neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature."

Paul had a singular subject. Regardless of where he preached, or to whom he preached, he preached the message of the Cross. To the Corinthians he said, **"For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified."**

To the Galatians he said, **"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."**

To the Corinthians he said, **"I preached unto you (the Gospel)... how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."**

Paul's message was a Bloody message - the message of the Cross, the message religionists today call "a butcherhouse message." I remind you that **"without shedding of Blood there is no remission . . ."** **"The Blood of Jesus Christ His (God's) Son cleanseth us from all sin."** **"When I see the Blood, I will pass over you!"**

So - it is Blood, or hell. If you are not under the Blood you stand spiritually naked, disgraced, and condemned before GOD; but if you are covered by the Blood, you are just as just as JESUS is just in the sight of a holy GOD. When GOD looks at you He sees the Blood - and He honors the Blood of His only begotten Son.

Paul summed up his testimony in Galatians 2:20: **"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me."**

Verse 15 tells us, in literal language, **"For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision anything, but a new creation."** That is - except a man be born from above he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"** (II Corinthians 5:17).

Circumcision here represents formalism, legality, external religion having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof. There are many such people today. Read carefully II Timothy 3:5. Not only does such religion avail nothing, but such religion IS nothing.

I pointed out earlier in this study that all we do, all we give, regardless of how great it may be, adds up to one big zero unless the love of GOD (JESUS CHRIST) abides in our bosom. The new creation through the miracle of the new birth is the only thing GOD honors. **"We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus. . ."** (Ephesians 2:10a).

Verse 16: **"And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God."** The rule to which Paul refers here was stated in verse 15 . . . the believer's perfect rule of life, a new creation in CHRIST JESUS, a new creature born from above, transformed by the power of GOD. Not circumcision - nor the lack of it. Not Law-keeping, not works, not religious formality - but a new creation in CHRIST JESUS. The believer has been made new from above, created anew in CHRIST. The true believer worships GOD in

spirit and in truth, rejoicing in the CHRIST and not in the flesh. We are commanded to put no confidence in the flesh.

Does this mean that Christians should not do good works? God forbid! Indeed it does not. Faith that saves is living faith, and **"faith without works is dead"** (James 2:20). **"Faith which worketh by love"** (Galatians 5:6) is the faith that saves us. We have been created in CHRIST JESUS unto good works (Ephesians 2:10), but good works referred to here are not Law-works, but sacrificial service to the Lord JESUS and to fellow believers. These works are not worked that we might be saved, but because we are already saved. We do not perform good works to keep saved, but we work good works because we are bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh (Ephesians 5:30).

In our present verse, Paul refers to the Israel of GOD, which consists of the natural seed of Father Abraham, who of course are also spiritual: **"For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel"** (Romans 9:6). Again, **"He is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God"** (Romans 2:28-29). Also read and carefully study John 8:37-44.

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

Paul had already defended his right to speak as an apostle. He clearly announced that GOD called him, ordained him, and sent him . . . and that GOD revealed the message he was to preach. And now he has ample proof that he told the truth when he announced his heavenly ordination. What is the proof? **"FOR I BEAR IN MY BODY THE MARKS OF THE LORD JESUS!"**

The Greek word for **"marks"** is a word that refers to the marks branded on slaves to indicate their owners. It was very common in the days of Paul. Paul's body bore the mark of circumcision - but this mark he declared was of no value. He then pointed to scars he had received in the fight of faith. He was proud of those scars, and he had a spiritual right to be proud of the scars he had received for the Gospel's sake. In his last moments on earth he testified, **"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing"** (II Timothy 4:6-8).

Paul was a good soldier. He kept his guns loaded at all times. He received many battle-scars - but he came out victorious: He received a crown!

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

The word **"brethren"** refers only to the true born again believers. All born again believers are brethren. All church members are not brethren, all men are not brothers in the spiritual sense . . . only the born again are **"brethren."**

In the Second Corinthian Epistle Paul closes by saying, **"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,**

and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen" (II Corinthians 13:14).

The "**you all**" in this verse applies only to the church, the born again. The Word of GOD does not make known any blessing whatsoever for those who reject the pure Gospel of GOD's grace. They tread the Son of GOD under their feet, they make the Blood of the covenant an unholy thing, they do despite unto the Spirit of GOD's marvelous grace (Hebrews 10:28-31). GOD pity them when they fall into the hands of the living GOD!

The marvelous grace of GOD is for "**ALL THEM THAT LOVE OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN SINCERITY**" (Ephesians 6:24).

To the enemies of the Cross, enemies of the Blood and the virgin-born, crucified, risen CHRIST, the Scriptures announce: "**IF ANY MAN LOVE NOT OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, LET HIM BE ANATHEMA MARANATHA** (ACCURSED when OUR LORD COMETH)" (I Corinthians 16:22).

"The wages of sin is death . . . sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death . . . God is angry with the wicked every day . . . The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God . . . But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

"The Lord is... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."
Dear friend, if you are not born again, if you do not know the grace of GOD, why not bow your head, confess your lost condition, invite Jesus to come into your heart. He will - and you will know it!

Paul closes: "**THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST BE WITH YOUR SPIRIT. AMEN.**"

Grace is the KEY WORD of the Epistle to the Galatians. Paul declares plainly and without apology, salvation is by Grace, through faith, plus nothing! Not one thing can be given or wrought to save or to help save. Saved by Grace, kept by Grace, and GOD's marvelous Grace is multiplied to the recipients of Grace in the measure in which they believe the Word and walk IN the Word. We are born into the family of GOD instantaneously. We are commanded to grow in Grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, JESUS CHRIST.

We do not grow into Grace - we are born into Grace; but we grow in Grace AFTER Grace comes into our heart. Certainly the key word in the Epistle to the Galatians is "**GRACE!**" Paul, inspired of the HOLY GHOST, wrote the Epistle to the Galatians and to all believers, in defense of salvation by Grace, through Faith, plus nothing. Thank GOD for Galatians!

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