

"The Application of Grace"**Galatians 5-6****Part 9**

Introduction: As we have been working our way through the book of Galatians, I hope you can see that this New Life we have in Christ is not a set of rules but it is a relationship in which we walk in the Spirit and Jesus lives within us to make Himself known to the world around us. The Holy Spirit that lives within us and empowers us to do that which we could not do before and that is to live a righteous life. In the churches of Galatia, the Judaizers had come in after Paul departed and they tried their best to put the believers under the Law. They would have said it was great that these people had placed their faith in Jesus but in order to keep sin restrained in their lives they would need to live by the Law. They saw the Law as a barrier to keep people at a distance from sin. But in this letter Paul corrected their teaching.

Galatians 5:16

¹⁶ *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

Paul did not say we MIGHT NOT fulfill the lust of the flesh, he said we SHALL NOT fulfill the lust of the flesh. The Judaizers said liberty was dangerous, but Paul was saying that legalism is dangerous. Why? Because legalism causes the believer to add to the finished work of Jesus Christ. Legalism is man's works and when a believer gets involved in legalism, they are saying that Jesus did not do enough to set us free from sin so we must do it ourselves. Then we get the glory. Do you now see the danger?

The Spirit that lives within us produces fruit which the Law could never do. As we continue on this path of faith that we started on He will produce His fruit in our lives. This fruit does not come because of our works but it comes as we walk in fellowship with our Lord and the Spirit produces it. Have you ever seen an apple tree struggling to produce fruit? No! The fruit comes about with no effort. It is the life from inside the tree that brings about the fruit. The same is true for us. It is the life from within us that produces fruit and that life is the Holy Spirit. The branch only needs to stay attached to the tree. The same is true for us.

John 15:4-5, 11

⁴ *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

⁵ *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

¹¹ *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*

There is great joy in bearing fruit for the Lord but there is no joy in living under a set of rules or under the Law. Remember the offer by Jesus to the Jews?

Matthew 11:28-30

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

²⁹ *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

³⁰ *For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

Let me also remind you what the purpose of fruit is. Fruit on the trees that we gather is to nourish us. That is the very same purpose of the Fruit of the Spirit. It is to nourish other people. Last week in our study we started into Galatians 6 and as this chapter begins Paul explains what a Spirit filled life looks like. It is a life of sacrificial service to other people. Is this not how Jesus lived His life, and that is the very life that the Spirit will manifest within us. So, as this chapter opens up Paul mentions 4 groups of people that we are to sacrifice for.

1. We are to serve the sinning believer.

Notice Galatians 6:1

2. We are to serve the burdened believer.

Notice Galatians 6:2-5

Now we come to where we are tonight, and we shall look at the other 2 groups.

3. We are to serve the pastors and teachers.

Notice Galatians 6:6

The word "communicate" here means "to share or to distribute" and the idea is financial support. Now this raises a question in my mind, "Why would Paul insert this thought here as he talks about being led by the Spirit?" Most likely the Judaizers had convinced the Galatian believers to withhold support from Paul or anyone who was teaching grace and liberty. This idea certainly fits the context. He has commanded them to bear one another's burdens and as the pastor/teacher sacrifices his time to study the Word he would have a burden of financial need. This is a principle that is clearly taught in the Scriptures but is often skipped over in teaching. I am very thankful for this church and the fact that my wife and I are taken care of. I believe this is one reason why God has blessed this church. Let us notice this principle in the Bible.

1 Corinthians 9:9-14

⁹ *For it is written in the law of Moses, thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?*

¹⁰ *Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.*

¹¹ *If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?*

¹² *If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.*

¹³ *Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?*

¹⁴ *Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.*

1 Timothy 5:17-18

¹⁷ Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

¹⁸ For the scripture saith, thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.

Notice Galatians 6:7

Here is the principle of sowing and reaping and it is true in every aspect of life. But we must keep it in context, and in context it has everything to do with financial support for those who faithfully teach the Word of God. The interesting point to see here is that not only does the teacher benefit but so does the person who gives to the Lord's work. To give to support the pastor is not throwing your money away but it is in investment with return. It is like planting seeds and when we plant seeds, we can expect that there will be a harvest. The same is also true when God's people give to support the ministry.

Notice Galatians 6:8

Life is full of choices and one of the choices is where will we invest our finances? We can spend all we have trying to satisfy the flesh. We can go here and there, we can fill our lives with things of the world, or we can invest in stuff. The end result of that is corruption. But when we sow to the Spirit the end result is life everlasting. This does not mean that we can buy eternal life. The idea in this verse is that when believers make the choice to not give to support the ministry then you can expect that you will not have a good source of teaching. But when the pastor is supported and he can focus upon studying the Bible then you will be blest, and your life will grow spiritually.

I believe that there is another principle within these verses that is very important. Keep in mind the principle of sowing and reaping is controlled by God. Therefore, when a church makes sure that their pastor is taken care of then God will truly bless that church. The church as a body will reap what they sow. Notice what Paul wrote to the Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 9:6-10

⁶ But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

⁷ Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

⁸ 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:

⁹ (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.

¹⁰ 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;)

Notice the words of Guzik.

"This principle has application beyond giving and supporting teachers and ministers. It has a general application in life; what we get out of life is often what we put in. Yet, Paul is not promoting some law of spiritual karma that ensures we will get good when we do good, or always get bad when we do bad. If there were such an absolute spiritual law, it would surely damn us all. Instead, Paul simply relates the principle of sowing and reaping to the way we manage our resources before the Lord."

Notice Galatians 6:9

Just as a farmer must wait patiently for his harvest so too, we must be faithful and wait to see the results of our sowing. It is easy but dangerous to lose heart. In the ancient world, this phrase translated "faint" was used for the kind of fear and weariness a woman experiences during labor before delivery. It describes a time when the work is hard and painful, but also unfinished and unrewarded. It's easy to lose heart when we feel like that, but that is exactly when we must hang on and not grow weary in well doing. The bottom line is that we must continue to be faithful and trust in the Word of God.

4. We are to serve everyone.

Notice Galatians 6:10

The word "therefore" connects the thought here back with the idea of giving to meet needs. Not only are we to support the ministers but we are to use our finances to help all who are in need and especially those who are of the faith.

Notice Galatians 6:10 again.

Paul says that as we have opportunity. This has the idea that there will be a time when the opportunities before us will not be there.

Conclusion:

The point is that we don't know how long we will have opportunity to do good, but we do know that when we breathe our last breath, that time is over forever. God has set boundaries around our lives, and our opportunities for service exists only within those boundaries. We are to make the most of our time on this sinful earth in fulfilling God's purposes, stepping into every opportunity for useful worship and service. The English word "opportunity" comes from the Latin and means "toward the port." It suggests a ship taking advantage of the wind and tide to arrive safely in the harbor. The shortness of life is a strong argument for making the best use of every opportunity God gives us.

Notice the words of Chuck Swindoll.

"We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations."