

"The Application of Grace"

Galatians 5-6

Conclusion

Introduction: Tonight, we shall finish our study of Galatians. My prayer is that this study has helped you to understand that holiness comes not by keeping the Law nor does it come by keeping a set of rules drawn up by the church. Holiness comes only by faith. As we walk in faith in the Truth which the Bible says about us as believers it is then that the Holy Spirit will live the life of Jesus Christ through us. The result is that we shall bear the Fruit of the Spirit.

In the last two lessons we looked at what walking in the Spirit looks like and that was found in Galatians 6:1-10. In these verses Paul explained that as we are led by the Spirit we will be willing to sacrifice for 4 groups of people.

1. The overtaken believer.
2. The burdened believer.
3. The pastor and teachers of the Word of God.
4. All people and especially those who are of the household of faith.

Now as we move on, we will see how Paul closes this very important letter. He will now point to the motives of the Judaizers.

➤ **The Motives of the Judaizers**

Notice Galatians 6:11

Some believe that Paul wrote this letter in large print because he had trouble seeing. But others believe this verse is talking about certain points in the letter that he emphasized in the way in which the Words were written. Most likely he is talking about the emphasis that he placed on certain points. Let us understand that this letter is so important because it deals with how to live and be victorious as a believer. There are many believers who will go through their entire lives and never get out of the struggle with recurring sin. The reason is because they have not been taught the Truth that is found in this letter. They will struggle in their own power under a set of rules or under the Law trying their best to overcome a weakness. They will believe that the flesh can somehow be trained to overcome temptations, and they will therefore spend their time as new believers thinking that one

day they will finally break free from the sin or sins which they battle with. They will live in Romans 7 for their entire Christian life.

Romans 7:15-19

¹⁵ For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

¹⁶ If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

¹⁷ Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

¹⁹ For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

²⁴ O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Notice Galatians 6:12

Here we see one of the motives of the false teachers. They know that the preaching of the cross would bring persecution. Why would this be true? Because the preaching of the cross strips man of his self-righteousness. It takes away man's ability to earn his or her way into heaven.

Notice Galatians 6:12 again.

Let us notice that Paul tells the believers that these false teachers desire to make a fair show in the flesh. In other words, they present themselves as righteous people and they too believe that they are accepted by good works. They know that Jesus Christ died for their sins, but they add the Law/circumcision to the Gospel and one reason is because they will feel the wrath of the Jews if they preach only the cross.

Application:

There is something here that we must understand. These Judaizers believed that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world, but they also believed that the Law had to be kept by the believer. This then made them guilty of preaching another Gospel that was not really a Gospel at all. You see anything added to the Gospel makes it then another Gospel. Does this happen today? Yes!! Consider people who believe they can lose their salvation?

Are they not adding to the finished work of Jesus Christ? Yes they are. They are adding works to the finished work of Jesus Christ. They will tell you that you are saved by grace through faith but in order to stay saved you must live a certain way. That is the same as declaring that Jesus died for our sins but we also must do our part by living a life that is free from sin. That is not the Gospel! That is adding to the finished work of Jesus Christ. When Jesus died on the cross for us He died for all of our sin, and He died to not only save us but He also empowered us to live a sanctified life.

Hebrews 10:10-14

¹⁰ By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

¹¹ And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

¹² But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

¹³ From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

¹⁴ For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

2 Peter 1:2-3

² Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

³ According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Now let me get back to the point. The cross is very offensive because it takes away man's ability to live to please God. The cross steals away all opportunities for the flesh to boast or glory.

Romans 9:31-33

³¹ But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.

³² Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;

³³ As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

1 Peter 2:7-8

⁷ Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

⁸ And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

Notice Galatians 6:13

The Judaizers who insisted that the believers must keep the Law were not able to keep the Law themselves. They were hypocrites. They insisted the people live up to the standard of the Law when they themselves were far from keeping the very Law they required others to keep.

Application:

This is always the pattern of the legalist. They are so strict with the demands on others when behind the scenes they themselves have sin that they refuse to deal with.

Matthew 7:3-5

³ And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

⁴ Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

⁵ Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Notice Galatians 6:13 again.

They were looking to get the Galatians circumcised so that they could count them as converts. They did not care about the people they just cared about the number of people who were circumcised.

Matthew 23:13-15

¹³ But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

¹⁴ Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

¹⁵ Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

Notice Galatians 6:14

Paul would glory in nothing but the cross. It is the cross and only the cross that frees the believer from sin. It is the cross where the sin nature was stripped of his power.

Romans 6:3-6

³ Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

⁴ Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Paul stated that by the cross the world was crucified to him, and he was crucified to the world. In other words, to Paul the world was dead and he was dead to the world. The lure of the world had no power over Paul.

Notice Galatians 6:15

Because of the finished work of Jesus Christ, we are new creations. We are not just changed on the outside but changed from the inside out.

Notice Galatians 6:16

Here Paul calls for peace and mercy on two different groups. Peace on THEM is the church. The ISRAEL OF GOD are the saved Jews within the body of Jesus Christ. Paul is not saying that the church is the new Israel. The word "Israel" appears some 70 times in the New Testament and each time it refers to Israel. The same is true here in 6:15. I say this because those who preach replacement theology use this verse to falsely teach that the church is the new Israel. The word "AND" separates the two groups here. One is the Gentile believers, and one is the Jewish believers. They are both the church, but Paul states the Jewish believers are the Israel of God. They all make up the church, but Paul makes a distinction between the two.

Notice Galatians 6:17

The Judaizers were all focused upon circumcision and here Paul says he has marks that prove he is a follower of Jesus Christ. He had scars that he referred to as the "marks of Jesus Christ."

Notice Galatians 6:18

Conclusion:

Notice the poem by Amy Carmichael.

Hast thou no scar?

No hidden scar on foot, or side, or hand?
I hear thee sung as mighty in the land,
I hear them hail thy bright ascendant star,
Hast thou no scar?

Hast thou no wound?

Yet I was wounded by the archers, spent,
Leaned Me against a tree to die, and rent
by ravening beasts that compassed Me, I swooned:
Hast thou no wound?

No wound, no scar?

Yet as the Master shall the servant be,
And, pierced are the feet that follow Me;
But thine are whole: can he have followed far
Who has no wound nor scar?

Notice the words of Havner - "We are hearing a new version of Christianity that avoids all this. It is not foolishness to the world and it is without offense. It involves no crucifixion of self, it presents no bleeding Saviour, it offers medals instead of scars. But if any man or an angel preach a crossless Christ let him be accursed. For such a Christ is without offense and without effect."