

## GALATIANS 6

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Galatians chapter 6 as we continue our study through the Word of God and tonight, we will finish up Paul's letter to the churches in Galatia.

As we have seen in our study of this letter, Paul was probably writing to the churches in the southern portion of Galatia, which included the cities of Antioch, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe.

These were the cities that Paul visited on his first missionary journey recorded for us in Acts 13:14-14:23.

As we finished up our study last time Paul spoke of walking in the Spirit and allowing the fruit of the Spirit to be manifested in our lives.

We saw that the fruit of the Spirit is love and that *AGAPE* love is manifested in our lives with joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

And Paul concluded Galatians chapter 5 by saying in verse 25, "**If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.**" Galatians 5:25-26.

Now as we move into Galatians chapter 6 tonight, we see how that is played out in our lives, walking in the Spirit.

One writer summed it up like this. He wrote,

Paul ends his letter to the Galatians with practical applications of the doctrine he has just taught. Walking in the Spirit should give us a burden to help our fellow Christian and to support those who teach the Word, that we may mature as believers. Finally, Paul makes one more appeal to avoid those who mix the Law with the salvation by grace.

Keep in mind that the Law brought only condemnation, there was no hope in keeping the Law. Thus, those who were still clinging to the Law were very judgmental upon those who were walking in the Grace of God!

And that is how it works, and I have seen it from those who have tried to add works or the Law to Grace. There was not much that I was doing right, according to them. And it is interesting to me that this was the problem almost 2,000 years ago and it is still a problem for those who try to mix Law and Grace together today.

That is why the application here in Galatians chapter 6 is so important for us to understand and apply to our lives. You see, it flows out of the Fruit of the Spirit as oppose to the Law, which flows the works of the flesh.

Thus, do you want to work in the flesh or walk in the Spirit? For me, what God has begun in me by His Spirit, I want Him to continue. I can't do it on my own and thus, by the Grace of God, He will see me through!

Paul put it like this in Romans 3:21-26, **“But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”**

Make no mistake about it, we are justified by His Grace and not by the works of the Law or keeping the Law because we can never keep the Law perfectly. Paul said that “**all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God**” and that means we have fallen far short of God’s requirement of perfection and it is only by His Grace that we can enter in!

So with that said, let’s begin reading in Galatians chapter 6, starting in verse 1 and let’s see what the Lord has for us this evening as we study His Word.

## **GALATIANS 6**

### **VERSE 1**

First of all, Paul is not speaking of someone who is in ongoing and unrepentant sin. That person should be rebuked if they refuse to repent and if they continue on, they need to be disfellowshipped!

Remember what Paul said in Galatians 5:9, “**A little leaven leavens the whole lump.**”

But here in Galatians 6:1 Paul is speaking of someone who has fallen into sin, finding themselves in situations that they never dreamed they would be in and yet they are and we are here to help them get back on track, you might say!

Now, why did Paul even have to mention this?

I have touched on this a little already, but it is important.

The reason Paul has to deal with this is because those that are bound in legalism come down hard against those that stumble, those that fall into sin, those that don’t live up to the standard they have set.

As I have said, there is no compassion in the Law, no love, just condemnation for not meeting a certain standard that they have set.

If you doubt that just read through the Gospels and see how the Jewish religious leaders looked down upon those who didn't meet their standards. The Pharisees would walk down the street and if you walked by, they would gather up their robes so they would not touch you and make them unclean!

No love, no compassion, just disgust in the way people acted and thankful they are not like them. Pride and legalism do go together!

And that is nothing more than a work of the flesh!

But, for those Christians who understand grace and thus, live by grace, they will act graciously towards others. You see, we have seen what God has given to us, His amazing Grace and we in no way deserve it.

Thus, as we see others struggling with sin, we can extend the grace of God to them and help them in the situations that they are in.

And here's the thing. And this is very obvious. When you put a legalist and a person who lives by grace, side by side, and a weaker Christian confesses their failings to them, their response is like night and day!

For the legalist, they don't get support, they don't get help, they get a lecture on how to be better, they get condemnation for what they have done.

They may say something like this, ***"I don't know how they could do that and call themselves a Christian! I would never think of doing anything like that!"***

Why do they respond like that?

Because it makes them look good since they have not done what this other Christian has done. That is not love, it is not the fruit of the Spirit!

But, when a person who is walking in the Grace of God hears someone who is struggling with sin, they get love and encouragement to come out of that! It is the Fruit of the Spirit that is flowing through our lives!

What a difference that is and what a wonderful gift God has given to us – **GRACE!**

You see, we are not to destroy or condemn the person nor are we to condone their sin. There is a balance.

Then what are we to do?

We are to restore them to the faith. You see, they transgressed, they sinned either willfully or unintentionally and thus they don't need excuses, they are not to be ignored, but they are to be restored.

In fact, Paul uses the Greek word KATARTIZO (kat-ar-tid'-zo) for "**restore**" and it carries with it the idea of "to put in order" or "to restore to its former condition."

It was used as a medical term to set a broken or displaced bone or in Mark 1:19 it is used of the apostles mending their nets.

Look at how this is played out and you will see how we are to minister to people, help them, love them, extend the Grace of God to them.

You see, to set a broken bone means you have to get close to that person in need, you have to touch them. It may cause them some pain as you reset the bone, but the idea is always a healing not destruction. It is done in love not hatred.

To mend a net, you have to physically touch that net and repair it, so too with someone who has fallen into a trespass.

We see this played out for us in a bad way and in a good way back in Genesis 9:20-23. These events took place after the flood and we are told, **“And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father’s nakedness.”**

Ham gossiped, told others of what happened to his father. That truly is how the Law looks, it condemns, puts down, makes fun of others while making us look good.

But we also see what Noah’s two other sons did, Shem and Japheth. They walked in backwards and covered their father’s sin – that is love! They extended *GRACE* to their father!

It is as Peter tells us in I Peter 4:8, **“And above all things have fervent love for one another, for ‘love will cover a multitude of sins.’”**

Now please understand that Peter is not saying that we just ignore the sins of others, as some like to think.

The idea here is as follows,

He must pay attention to his fellowship with other believers . . . and *have fervent love* for all members of the household of faith. Such a love will not publicize the faults and failings of other believers, but will protect them from public view. Someone has said, “Hatred makes the worst of everything. Love is entitled to bury things out of sight.”

The statement *“love will cover a multitude of sins”* (Prov. 10:12) should not be taken as a doctrinal explanation of how sins are put away. The guilt and penalty of sins can only be removed by the blood of Christ. Neither should the statement be used to condone sin or to relieve an assembly from its responsibility to discipline an offender. It means that true love is able to overlook minor faults and failures of other believers.

- William MacDonald, *Believer’s Bible Commentary*, p. 227

In other words, can you forgive what others have done to you and love them with that Agape, that unconditional love that God has towards you? Are you willing to let those things go?

And the idea with this **“fervent”** love is that of a muscle that is stretched to its limit! Can we love like that? Not on our own but by the power of God’s Spirit working in us and through us we can. You see, it is the Fruit of the Spirit manifested in our lives.

I know, I have said that a few times already, but that is what this chapter is born out of, what we read back in Galatians chapter 5!

Think of it like this. When you fall, when you sin, and you will, do you want God to disown you, belittle you, put you down?

Of course you don’t. You want God to extend His grace and mercy to you and restore you!

That is the idea here. That is what we are to do!

Let me give you this example to think about.

When you are teaching your child to walk and they fall, what do you do?

Do you go up to them and yell at them, “I told you so! You are not ready to walk! You fool! I am ashamed of you and I am going to tell everyone what you did!”

No, at least I hope you don't do that!

You pick them up, place them back on their feet and encourage them to go forward and you tell everyone that they are standing, that they are trying to walk, you encourage them, support them, love them.

One of the greatest tragedies in the church is when leaders fall and in response to that, how the Christians mock, put down, gossip about that person.

And that not only goes for leaders, sadly to say, but for anyone who falls, there are those ready to jump on them and keep them down, not restore them, not help them to get up.

Folks, by the grace of God we stand or as Paul put it, “**. . . restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.**” Galatians 6:1.

John Stott put it this way, “This suggests that gentleness is born of a sense of our own weakness and proneness to sin.”

Here's the thing. The legalist does not need to “*consider himself*” because he pretends he could never commit such a sin.

But the believer, living by grace, realizes that no man is immune from falling. He has an attitude of humility because he realizes his own weaknesses. By the grace of God we live!

I hope that makes sense to you. The legalist will condemn, and it is a works of the flesh.

The person living under Grace will restore and it is truly the fruit of the Spirit that is seen in their lives!

Paul is going to continue on with this thought as we read on here in Galatians chapter 6.



VERSES 2-5

When Paul brings up the idea of the one “**overtaken in any trespass,**” it paints the picture of a person sagging under a heavy load.

Now let’s think about this for a minute.

Have you ever met someone who was sagging under the heavy load that has come upon them?

We have all been there and I’m sure when we have been weighed down that some dear saint came alongside to help us.

I know I have been blessed often by people who have come alongside me and encouraged me, lifted me up, my wife being my biggest encourager, just being there to help lift the load!

Now keep in mind that Paul, in this letter, has been dealing with the mixing of Law and Grace and how they don’t mix. If you add anything to Grace then it is no longer Grace, but it works, it is the Law you are living by and believing you are saved by!

In saying that, we see here that Paul may be speaking of the Law and its heavy burden upon people’s lives, crushing them under its weight.

And Paul’s point is to help them out of that yoke of bondage the Law has them in, restore them in Christ and in doing so you are fulfilling the Law of Christ – loving others as the Lord has commanded us.

And it probably goes even farther than those who are weighed down by the Law, it is any sin that they find themselves in, weighing them down, that we are to restore them, as we saw in Galatians 6:1.

Remember what Jesus said in John 13:34-35, **“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”**

We are to love as Christ loves us, unconditionally, sacrificially, *AGAPE* love!

Now be careful that you don't think that you are more important than others, that they need to care for you. That is pride; it is not the fruit of the Spirit, which is love.

And there are those who are always looking for others to carry them and that is a problem. If we do that we will not grow in the Lord.

And for the legalist, it truly is all about them.

We are told in Luke 18:9-14, **“Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ‘Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men - extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.’”**

The keeper of the Law looks down upon others and tends to exalt self while those living in the grace of God realize they can't boast in what they have done but what He has done for them. And because of that we can reach out to others in the love of Christ, lift that burden, help them with the burden they are going through.

A great example of someone who thought of himself more highly than he should have was Lucifer and look how many people he has deceived with his lies of exalting self, building self-up, even in the church today, and it is a road that leads to destruction as Lucifer found out for himself and now brings others down that same road.

You see, conceit must be done away with because it will only breed intolerance in your life towards others!

Legalism deceives a person into thinking more and more highly of themselves - but the bigger their opinion of themselves grows, the smaller God's grace becomes.

Now, think about these questions for a minute.

Why are you in the ministry?

Why are you serving in the body of Christ?

Are you looking for the applause of men?

Are you looking for the praise of men?

And here's the thing. If you are you will never be satisfied, you will never complete what you have started, your work will be done in a way that takes the glory from God and places it on you.

You do the work unto the Lord, to the best of your ability, you bear your own load and you can rejoice in that. Not sinful pride but personal exultation in what God has done.

Luther gives us some interesting comments on these verses. He tells us, "If we had to feel that the success of our ministry depended upon our popularity with men we would die, because we are not popular. On the contrary, we are hated by the whole world with rare bitterness. Nobody praises us. Everybody finds fault with us. But we glory in the Lord and attend to our work cheerfully."

I think he went to the extreme, but in his day, they wanted him dead!

He also said, “To preach the Gospel for praise is bad business, especially when people stop praising you. Find your praise in the testimony of a good conscience . . . For anybody to covet praise is foolish because the praise of men will be of no help to you in the hour of death . . . As it is, the praise of men stops when we die. Before the eternal Judge it is not praise that counts but your own conscience.”

Now Paul does seem to contradict himself here. In verse 2 he tells us to “**bear one another’s burdens**” and here in verse 5 he said, “**each one should bear his own load.**”

What is the point, what are we missing here?

The word that Paul used for “**burdens**” in verse 2 is BAROS or a heavy load.

And here in verse 5 the word for “**load**” or “**burden**” is PHORTION (for-tee’-on), which speaks of a backpack, something a soldier would carry.

Thus, we are to help those with their heavy burdens, but we are also responsible for carrying our own load or backpack you might say, as we walk in the Lord.

Paul, in Hebrews 10:24-25 put the principle like this in regard to helping others, stirring them up, “**And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.**”

And if you think about it, that is how the human body works. For the most part, each area of the body does its work, but sometimes there is added stress, added weight to the work that they are doing and thus, help comes to assist in the work.

That is how it should be in the body of Christ.

I love to see how people come together to help a person who has had surgery and they provide meals for them. That is how it should be, working together for the betterment of the body of Christ!

As we read on, Paul is going to change the subject. Listen to what he tells us.

#### VERSE 6

This verse can be translated like this, *“Let him who receives instruction share with him who gives instruction in all good things.”*

Again, the idea is caring and sharing with each other. There is a oneness that is more interested in others than self. Those that are building you up spiritually with the Word of God should be cared for in a material sense.

Paul told Timothy in I Timothy 5:17-18, **“Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer is worthy of his wages.’”**

Now that is something that is neglected and abused in the body of Christ today.

The idea is, of course, caring and sharing between people in the body of Christ, a beautiful fellowship.

We have seen the abuse of this with pastor’s living in mansions, having their own jet and-so-on. That is not what Paul is talking about.

He is talking about the pastor’s being supported by the church, their needs are met, not their wants! It is not taking from the people; it is receiving from them so the pastor can teach the Word of God!

VERSES 7-8

Paul is saying here, ***“Stop allowing yourself to be continually being deceived!”***

What in the world is Paul talking about here?

He is talking about letting our sin, the sin we are flaunting in the face of God, mock God!

And the idea with this word, **“mock”** is to “turn up the nose, to ridicule, to ignore, to sneer.”

We are seeing that more and more today, the mocking of God as people flaunt their sin in the face of God!

Let me share with you some of those who mocked God and what happened to them. Keep in mind, God is not mocked!

Tancredo Neves (President of Brazil), during the Presidential campaign, he said if he got 500,000 votes from his party, not even God would remove him from Presidency. Sure he got the votes, but he got sick a day before being made President, then he died.

Then there was Cazuza (Bi-sexual Brazilian composer, singer and poet), during A show in Canecio ( Rio de Janeiro ), while smoking his cigarette, he puffed out some smoke into the air and said: “God, that's for you.” He died at the age of 32 of **LUNG CANCER** in a horrible manner.

The man who built the Titanic, after the construction of Titanic, a reporter asked him how safe the Titanic would be. With an ironic tone he said, “Not even God can sink it!” I think you all know what happened to the Titanic!

In Campinas, Brazil a group of friends, drunk, went to pick up a friend. The mother accompanied her to the car and was so worried about the drunkenness of her friends and she said to the daughter holding her hand, who was already seated in the car, “My Daughter, Go With God And May He Protect You.” She responded: “Only If He (God) Travels In The Trunk, Cause Inside Here . . . . It’s Already Full!” Hours later, news came by that they had been involved in a fatal accident, everyone had died, the car could not be recognized what type of car it had been, but surprisingly, the trunk was intact. The police said there was no way the trunk could have remained intact. To their surprise, inside the trunk was a crate of eggs, none was broken!

One writer put it like this. He wrote,

Ernest Hemingway became famous for snubbing his nose at morality and at God, declaring that his own life proved a person could do anything he wanted without paying the consequences.

Like many others before and after him, he considered the ideas of the Bible to be antiquated and outdated, completely useless to modern man and a hindrance to his pleasure and self-fulfillment.

Moral laws were to him a religious superstition that had no relevance.

In mocking parody of the Lord’s Prayer, he wrote, “Our nada [Spanish for ‘nothing’] who art in nada.”

But instead of proving the impunity of infidelity, the end of Hemingway’s life proved the folly of mocking God. His debauched life led him into such complete despair and hopelessness that he put a bullet in his head.

Other famous authors, such as Sinclair Lewis and Oscar Wilde, who openly attacked the divine moral standard and thumbed their noses at God, mocking His Word and His law, were nonetheless subject to that law.

Lewis died a pathetic alcoholic in a third-rate clinic in Italy, and Wilde ended up an imprisoned homosexual, in shame and disgrace. Near the end of his life he wrote, "I forgot somewhere along the line that what you are in secret you will someday cry aloud from the housetop."

- John MacArthur

And we see the mocking of God continue today and let me share with you what God thinks about this mocking.

We are told in Psalm 2, "**Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 'Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us.' He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: 'Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.' I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, And rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And**



**you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.”**

Yes, you can mock God all you want but the Lord just laughs because He is God and you are not! You can't mock God; you can't fight against God and win!

Make no mistake about it, God is not being mocked, no one is getting away with anything! He will have the last laugh!

And to make his point, Paul speaks of the farmer who plants his seed and what he puts in the ground he will abundantly reap during harvest time.

What are you planting in your life?

You see, what you sow you will reap.

The agricultural principle is seen in our spiritual life, it is a spiritual principle also!

Yes, there are mockers of God today like there have always been, and tragically, what they sow, they will, and some have already reaped!

I also like what Scofield has to say regarding this verse, I think it also applies. He tells us, “The Spirit is not speaking here to sinners about their sins, but to saints about their meanness.”

In other words, in this section on bearing and sharing burdens, are we planting seeds of love, forgiveness, and acceptance into the lives of others or are we sowing anger, resentment, and un-forgiveness into their lives? Are you walking in the Spirit or working in the flesh? You see, if you are focused on the things of God rather than the fleshly things of this world then the fruit of the Spirit will flow from your life.

Paul put it this way, “**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.**”

Galatians 5:22-23.

If you are focused on the fleshly things of this world and not walking in the Spirit, then the works of the flesh will flow from your life.

Paul put it this way, **“Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”** Galatians 5:19-21.

Of this John Stott put it this way, “Every time we allow our mind to harbor a grudge, nurse a grievance, entertain an impure fancy, wallow in self-pity, we are sowing to the flesh. Every time we linger in bad company whose insidious influence we know we cannot resist, every time we lie in bed when we ought to be up and praying, every time we read pornographic literature, every time we take a risk that strains our self-control we are sowing, sowing, sowing to the flesh.”

May we walk in the Spirit and as we do, we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh because the Spirit of God will control our lives!

### VERSE 9

Folks, the farmer does not sow his seed and then reap the same day.

He must be patient. He must work the soil after the seed is planted, care for it and in due time, harvest time, it will produce fruit!

Paul put it this way in I Corinthians 15:58, **“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”**

That is God's promise to us!

But, make no mistake about it. It is easy to lose heart in the work we are doing.

In the ancient world, this phrase translated "**lose heart**" 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 while doing good.

And, I hate to admit it, but at times I do get weary as I look at things, as I listen to what people are saying, which is not always nice.

What is the problem?

I have the wrong focus!

Folks, I need to be steadfast, immovable, abounding in the work of the Lord not because of the results that I am looking for, but because the Lord has called me to do this work and the same should be true of you! The results are up to the Lord and not me. I am to be faithful in service unto Him and so are you!

Now I do need to say this. It is not always spiritual weariness, but it can just be plain old-fashioned spiritual laziness! And, believe it or not, you can become weary in doing nothing.

In Proverbs 26:13-16 we are told, "**The lazy man says, 'There is a lion in the road! A fierce lion is in the streets!' As a door turns on its hinges, So does the lazy man on his bed. The lazy man buries his hand in the bowl; It wearies him to bring it back to his mouth. The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes Than seven men who can answer sensibly.**"

Or maybe you are just a talker, all that you are going to do for the Lord but there is no service, only talk.

James 1:22 tells us, **“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”**

For Paul, he was a man who stayed on course even though there were many distractions to get him off course! And, at the end of his life, he tells us, **“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”** II Timothy 4:7-8.

That is my heart’s desire, as I am sure it is yours, to finish the race, to fight that good fight, to keep the faith as Paul did!

I want to hear those beautiful words from the Lord, **“Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”** Matthew 25:21.

Thus, **“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”**

#### VERSE 10

What does Paul mean by **“opportunity”**?

He is not speaking of doors that may open up, situations that arise.

He used the Greek word KAIROS, (kahee-ros’) and it speaks of a fixed period of time or the opportunities we have in this life for once this life is over, those opportunities are gone!

Remember what Psalm 90:12 says, “**So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.**”

Oh that we would learn to number our days, to be aware of the days that God has given us and live them to the fullest serving Him.

There was a commercial several year’s back that said, “*Life is tough, so play hard!*”

That is what the world says we should do, but not God.

That is not what Moses is saying here.

Yes, life is tough, it is short, and because of that we need God to give us His wisdom so we can maximize our time here on the earth.

God has equipped us with abilities to do things in the body of Christ. Use those gifts, ask God to help you make better use of your time, and not to waste it.

You see, we have a unique opportunity as Christians to serve Almighty God, don’t waste those opportunities you have but live your life to the fullest for the **LORD!**

#### VERSE 11

As was Paul’s custom, he would dictate his letters to a secretary but often he would conclude his letters with a short note written by him.

One of the reasons may be to authenticate his letter because letters were being circulated and said that Paul or one of the other apostles wrote them when they did not!

Paul spoke of a false letter that the Thessalonians received, and some believed that Paul wrote it, and Paul is saying that he did not write it.

In II Thessalonians 2:1-2 we are told, **“Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.”**

This false letter said that the day of the Lord had come, and Paul is correcting them on this error.

And thus, Paul concluded II Thessalonians by saying, **“The salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle; so I write.”** II Thessalonians 3:17.

Now, the big question here is why did Paul write using **“large letters”**?

Some suggest it was because of his poor eyesight. That may very well be the case.

Others say it refers to Greek uncials which were a large unconnected block letters that were easy to read and used often in public notices.

Others say he wrote like that because his readers were acting like children. In other words, he wrote to them using crayons, in a sense!

I tend to lean towards it being because of his poor eyesight but it is not a foundational issue.

I would not lose sleep over this one but just understand that there are different views and pray about it.

### VERSES 12-13

Look at the motive behind these Judaizers, these legalists.

They were trying to sell the Galatians a bunch of malarkey, just plain nonsense! And they had some great sales pitches, many bought into their lies of mixing Law and Grace together.

The interesting thing is these that were promoting the keeping of the Law, were not keeping it themselves! Legalists are notorious hypocrites as we can see in Matthew 23:3-5a, and there are other places we see this, but listen to what Jesus says regarding the Jewish religious leaders. **“Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do to be seen by men. . . .”**

Again, it was all for show and they were not even keeping the Law that they were forcing others to keep and that is what Paul is saying here.

I am better now but a several years back I use to be very gullible to phone sales!

I remember one day; Julie was out, and a woman called selling a subscription to magazines.

I have a hard time hanging up so I listened to this deal where I could get like 10 magazines, my favorites and the price was unbelievable!

That is the first clue!

The catch was that I had to subscribe for these magazines for like 50 years!

Well, maybe it was like 7 years, but it was a long time. But what a price! I couldn’t pass it up.

Guess what? I didn’t pass it up, I bought the subscription and I was so lucky because the day she called there happened to be a sales representative in Manitowoc and he could be there in a few minutes to sign me up, which had to be done to make it official.

And in a few minutes, he was there. Luckily Julie came home before I signed the papers and she said, and I am paraphrasing, “What are you doing, are you nuts?”

I call it temporary insanity, but it is getting a little longer than temporary lately.

We ended up canceling the subscription to all those magazines that I didn't need in the first place and I am doing fine without them and if I would have signed up, I would still be getting them and paying for them!

Great sales pitch and gullible consumer. Thank God for Julie!

Here in Galatia they got some of the Galatians to get circumcised and it made these Judaizers look good among their fellow legalists and Jews but their relationship with the Galatians was that they were just another notch on their belt!

Notice, no love, no fruit of the Spirit, just the Law and its ugly results – ***PRIDE!***

#### VERSES 14-15

As Paul is concluding this letter to the churches in the region of Galatia, Paul is summing things up for us and this is so important.

You see, his boast is not in what he has done, his good works, his keeping the Law. Not at all. He wants the Galatians to understand that!

He does not boast in himself, but his boast is in the Lord Jesus Christ and what He has done, the shedding of His blood for the forgiveness of my sin, of your sin!

But, for the legalist, his boast has to be in what he has done, which is never a good thing.

You see, no good works will save you, only Jesus can and thus, it is not circumcision or uncircumcision, it is the new creation in Christ! This is something that God has done!

Remember what Paul wrote in II Corinthians 5:17, **“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”**



Notice that Paul does not say, *“Therefore, if anyone keeps the Law, he is a new creation . . .”* That is not what the Law does, only Jesus can do that in our lives, and thus, we must be in Christ!

Keep in mind what the Judaizers were doing here. They used circumcision to get the Galatians to live under the Mosaic Law and to be spared the persecution from among their fellow legalists and Jews.

But Paul’s point is that it is only the cross that saves, not the Law, it is Jesus that makes us a new creation.

In fact, Paul tells us in Galatians 2:20-21, **“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”**

Righteousness does not come through the Law; it only comes through Jesus who took our sin and gave to us His righteousness!

One writer put it like this. He wrote,

If one carefully studies the various religions and cults of the world, he will soon discover that, without exception, they are founded on some form of human effort and works righteousness.

And without exception, all religions and cults that deal with the supernatural trace their origins to angels, extraterrestrial creatures, or other spirit beings.

For example, the angel Moroni is said to have presented the Book of Mormon on golden plates to Joseph Smith; the angel Gabriel supposedly dictated the Koran to Muhammad; and it was on supposed angelic revelations to Mrs. Herbert Armstrong that Armstrongism (the Worldwide Church of God) was founded.

In addition to that, every human religion and cult denies the Trinity, denies the sole divinity of Jesus among men, and denies His unique and complete sacrificial atonement for man's sin.

Paul speaks of "false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds" (2 Cor 11:13-15).

Only grace-centered, biblical Christianity is from God.

Every other form of religion is from Satan, inspired by his demon spirits, promoted by his lying human agents (1 Tim 4:1-2), and centered in works righteousness.

Those who trust in Jesus Christ and His finished work of redemption are saved, whereas those who trust in any other means of salvation remain lost.

They "do not know God and . . . and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus."

Consequently, "these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power" (2 Tess 1:8-9).

- John MacArthur

Remember, we don't make ourselves a new creation; God does it in us. At root, Christianity is something God does in us, not something we do for God. This can simply define the difference between the systems of Grace and Law.

Paul wanted the Galatians and the Holy Spirit wants us to clearly understand that we are saved by Grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone and not be the Law through works!

### VERSE 16

Please understand that we don't make things up as we go in regard to our Lord.

Paul says we “**walk according to this rule**” and the word he uses for “**rule**” is KANON, (kan-ohn') and as Lightfoot tells us it is “The carpenter's or surveyor's line by which a direction is taken.”

It is also the Greek word we get the word “**cannon**” from as in the cannon of Scripture. And the idea with this is that “which comes from God and is straight and true.”

And yet, today, we see so many that are not walking the line that God's Word has laid out for us, they go here and there and everywhere!

Today, we see so many that don't follow that which is straight and true, they don't follow healthy doctrine because they think they know better than God. They don't!

And think about it. You would never board a plane in California and head to Hawaii if the pilot told you the navigation system is just a little off, only one degree, would you?

I hope you wouldn't because if you did, by the time you were to reach Hawaii you would miss it by hundreds of miles!

We have the Word of God that keeps us in line, on target. The problem comes when we try to pick and choose what we like and don't like, what we believe and don't believe and by the time you get to the end, you are hundreds of miles off of the destination that God wants you to be.

If you want to stay on course, stay in the Word of God and apply the Word of God to your life!

Remember what Paul said in Galatians 1:8-9, “**But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.**”

That was a curse, the judgment of God upon those who taught and believed a false gospel.

Now Paul gives a blessing to those who follow the true Gospel, the descendants of Abraham by faith, the Israel of God! You and me!

#### VERSES 17-18

These marks in his body, the things he suffered identified him with Christ. The reason he received these were because he was a bondsman of Jesus and as they hated the Lord, they will hate those who love Him and serve Him.

Make no mistake about it, Paul’s letter to the churches in Galatia is a strong rebuke against legalism and he ends with what it all boils down to, *the Grace of God in our lives!*

As I begin to close this letter, and, as we finish this study of Paul’s letter to the Galatians, let me remind you of these words from Paul, “**And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.**” Galatians 6:9-10.

Let us forge ahead in the work of the Lord bringing to people the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Grace of God that will set them free!

You see, “After the storm and stress and intensity of the letter comes the peace of the benediction. Paul has argued and rebuked and cajoled but his last word is **GRACE**, for him the only word that really mattered.” (Barclay)

So, Paul comes to the end of his letter; and he closes just the way he began: **GRACE!** Not “the Law of Moses,” but **THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

No more needs to be said, because that says it all. **THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!**