

Study Notes For Galatians

(Chapter Six)

Galatians 6:1 –

- If someone is overtaken in a fault (**Acts 18:24-28**).
 - The idea of “overtaken” includes some element of surprise. Hence, it is not that this brother or sister has deliberately contemplated sin (i.e. **Genesis 12:10-20**) and then engaged to deliberately satisfy his or her lust (**James 1:13-16**).
 - Some may be so deliberate that, even knowing the consequences of their sinful behavior; they just don’t care (**Proverbs 1:24-31** and **Romans 1:32-2:3**).
 - Real Christians are not people who willing succumb to temptation or have a mindset to sin (**Romans 6:1-2**, **I Corinthians 15:34**, **Ephesians 1:4**, **II Timothy 2:19**, **I Peter 1:13-16**, **I John 2:1-6**).
 - A person who is unwilling to hear is not one who fits this context (**Proverbs 9:8**, **Proverbs 23:9** [cf. **Proverbs 12:1**; **Proverbs 15:10**], **Matthew 7:6**, **Matthew 15:14**, and **Titus 3:9-11**).
- The spiritually minded brethren are given this task for a reason (**Matthew 7:1-5**).
- Restore that fallen saint (**James 5:19-20** and **Jude 1:22-23**).
- In the spirit of meekness (**II Timothy 2:24-26** and **James 3:13**) doesn’t mean compromising and granting forgiveness wherein there is no repentance (**Matthew 18:10-17** and **Luke 17:3-4**).
- Considering thyself is a significant part of this command. In all things, we must include self-examination and consideration (**Psalms 119:159**, **Haggai 1:5**, and **II Corinthians 13:5**).
 - How would you want treated in this case (**Matthew 7:12**)?
 - Remember that, if you are a Christian, you have at least sinned once in life and needed to be saved yourself (**I John 1:8**).
 - Think of a time wherein you sinned and remember not to have a “holier than thou” attitude (**Isaiah 65:5** and **Luke 18:10-14**).
 - Put yourself in that person’s shoes (**Hebrews 13:3**).
 - Think of how David erred in not considering himself (**II Samuel 11:1-12:13**).
- Consider also how this person was tempted and learn from it so you don’t fall into the same trap (**I Corinthians 10:1-12**).

Galatians 6:2 –

- Bearing each other’s burdens can apply to physical matters (**Acts 20:35** and **Romans 15:25-27**).
- However, the context here is about helping bear the spiritual matters brethren face (**Romans 15:1-3**, **I Thessalonians 5:14**, **Hebrews 3:13**, and **Hebrews 10:24-25**).
- The overall point is that, as a Christian, you don’t have to go it alone (**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**, **Philippians 2:25-30**, and **I Thessalonians 5:11**).

- The law of Christ (**John 12:48, Romans 8:2, I Corinthians 9:21, Hebrews 9:15-17, Hebrews 10:16-20, James 1:25, and James 2:8-12**).

Galatians 6:3 –

- Sometimes people think they are more than they are (**Proverbs 25:14, Proverbs 26:12, and Colossians 2:18**).
- You cannot think of yourself in such a way (**Proverbs 3:7, Isaiah 5:21, and Romans 12:3**).
- Self-deception (**Psalms 10:4-6, Proverbs 21:2, Proverbs 30:12-13, I Corinthians 3:18, and II Timothy 3:13**).

Galatians 6:4 –

- Prove [test] your own work (**Romans 12:2, I Corinthians 11:28, Ephesians 5:10, and I Thessalonians 5:21**).
- We have to be cautious with this instruction in realizing this is not authority for us to become boastful (**Psalms 49:6-12, Romans 3:26-27, I Corinthians 1:25-29, II Corinthians 10:12-13, Ephesians 2:8-9, and James 4:16**).
- At the same time, testing your works proves your doing well to yourself (**Proverbs 14:14, James 1:21-27, and I John 3:16-20**) and others (**Proverbs 31:30-31, Matthew 7:15-20, Romans 16:12, and I Peter 3:15-16**).

Galatians 6:5 –

- While this verse appears to be teaching the same thing as verses 7-9, there is a variation. The word translated “burden” here only appears three others times in the New Testament (**Matthew 11:30, Matthew 23:4, and Luke 11:46**).
- The application here appears more to be talking about carrying your own weight (i.e. **Mark 8:34-35**).
- This ties to what we just read (**Galatians 6:3-4**). Prove your own work and now do your own work (**I Corinthians 15:58 and I Thessalonians 1:3**).
- Yes, Christians may help one another (**Romans 16:1-2**), but you have to step up and work yourself (**Titus 2:13-14**).
- You’ll not be rewarded for what others do. The result of zero work is zero reward (**Matthew 25:14-30**). Your reward is for YOUR work (**I Corinthians 3:8**).

Galatians 6:6 –

- Another principle is added to what we have just discussed. Now we are being taught that one should share with those that teach them. This is about fellowship (**I Thessalonians 5:12-13**).
- The word translated as “communicate” is also translated “distributing” (**Romans 12:13**), “partakers” (**Romans 15:27, Hebrews 2:14, and I Peter 4:13**), “communicated” (**Philippians 4:15**), and “partaker” (**I Timothy 5:22 and II John 1:11**). The contexts of those verses cover spiritual fellowship in financial matters, sharing, and in the sense of keeping company with a person.

Galatians 6:7 –

- As was discussed in **Galatians 6:3** (see notes there), self-deception is a real possibility if you'll allow it to occur.
- God is not mocked (**Psalms 50:19-22**). He will not overlook or miss such (**Psalms 94:1-11**). There will be accountability for everything (**Matthew 12:34-37**).
 - This verse is not teaching that one cannot physically mock God. Jesus was mocked (**Matthew 20:19** and **Matthew 27:26-31**). *Remember, Jesus is deity (**Isaiah 9:6, Matthew 1:23, John 8:56-58, John 10:30-33, John 20:28-31, Acts 20:28, Romans 9:1-5, Colossians 2:8-9, Titus 2:13, Hebrews 1:8-12, I John 3:16, and I John 5:20**) just as much as the Father (**Philippians 2:11**) and Holy Spirit (**Acts 5:1-5**).
 - The point is, God will not leave mocking Him or His messengers without punishment (**II Chronicles 36:14-17** and **Zephaniah 1:12**).
- Whether it is mocking God, sin in any way, or righteousness; you reap what you sow (**Job 4:8, Job 34:11, Proverbs 1:31, Proverbs 12:14, Proverbs 14:14, Proverbs 24:12, Isaiah 3:10-11, Jeremiah 2:19, Jeremiah 4:16-18, Jeremiah 32:19, Ezekiel 22:31, Hosea 7:2, Hosea 8:7, John 5:28-29, Romans 2:4-11, and II Corinthians 5:10**).

Galatians 6:8 –

- Sowing to the flesh (**Romans 6:13-16, Romans 8:12-13, Romans 13:12-14, Galatians 5:24, Ephesians 2:1-5, Titus 2:11-14, I Peter 2:11, and I John 2:15-17**).
- Carnality brings corruption (**Proverbs 22:8, Matthew 26:41, and II Peter 2:19-22**).
 - Balancing the Scriptures is important though. There is a certain level of carnality that is appropriate (**I Corinthians 7:1-5, I Timothy 4:1-5, and Hebrews 13:4**).
 - With the proper focus, the world can be enjoyed (**Ecclesiastes 2:24, Ecclesiastes 5:13-20, II Thessalonians 3:10, and I Timothy 6:17**).
 - This is true even of sowing some spiritual things and in return reaping carnal things (**I Corinthians 9:7-14**).
 - The balance is in focus (**Colossians 3:1-4**).
- In contrast (**Matthew 19:16-29**) spirituality brings eternal life (**Matthew 25:31-46, John 4:31-36, John 6:26-27, Romans 6:22-23, and II Timothy 4:6-8**).

Galatians 6:9 –

- Don't get weary (**II Corinthians 4:1, Philippians 4:1, II Thessalonians 2:15-17, II Thessalonians 3:13, Hebrews 12:1-3, and Hebrews 12:12-13**).
- In well doing (**I Corinthians 15:58, I Peter 2:15, and I Peter 4:17-19**).
 - Sometimes well doing will make it harder on us (**I Peter 3:17-18**).

- We do not define “well doing” (**Matthew 7:21-23** and **Luke 6:46**; cf. **II Timothy 3:15-17** and **II Peter 1:3-4**).
- The reaping is ahead of us (**Matthew 10:22**, **Hebrews 3:6**, **Hebrews 3:14**, **Hebrews 10:35-39**, **James 5:7-8**, and **I Peter 1:3-9**).

Galatians 6:10 –

- The word translated “opportunity” here (Strong’s # 2540) is translated as “time” (**Matthew 8:29**, **Matthew 11:25**, **Matthew 12:1**, **Matthew 13:30**, **Matthew 14:1**, **Matthew 21:34**, etc.), “times” (**Matthew 16:3**, **Galatians 4:10**, **Ephesians 1:10**, etc.), “due time[s]” (**Romans 5:6**, **I Timothy 2:6**, **Titus 1:3**, and **I Peter 5:6**) “seasons” (**Matthew 21:41**, **Acts 1:7**, **Acts 14:17**, etc.), “season” (**Matthew 24:45**, **Acts 13:11**, etc.), “age” (**Hebrews 11:11**), “always” (**Luke 21:36** and **Ephesians 6:18**), and “opportunity” (**Hebrews 11:15**).
 - Thus, you’d have to conclude that we are talking about a word that means opportune or appropriate time (i.e. **John 7:1-6**).
 - What is lawful, expedient, and edifying would therefore serve as imbedded parts to this instruction (**I Corinthians 10:23**).
- The context of this verse includes self-examination, focus on the spiritual things, and assuring of our own work without self-deception (**Galatians 6:3-4**).
 - Of course, concern for you also includes doing right to, for, and by others (**Romans 13:9-10**, **Romans 15:1-3**, and **Philippians 2:3-8**).
 - However, you cannot “do good” for others when you yourself are not right (**Matthew 7:1-5**).
- Doing good unto all (**Psalms 34:14-16**, **Psalms 37:3**, **Psalms 37:27**, **Matthew 4:43-48**, **Luke 6:35**, **I Thessalonians 5:15**, **Titus 3:8**, **Hebrews 13:15-16**, **James 4:17**, **I Peter 3:8-12**, and **III John 1:11**).
- Do we define what is “good” (**Proverbs 12:15**, **Jeremiah 4:22**, **Jeremiah 13:23**, **Matthew 7:21-23**, **I Corinthians 4:6**, **II Timothy 2:14-18**, and **II Peter 3:15-18**)?
 - One man says it is good to give twenty dollars to a lazy bum on the corner. The word of God says that such is wrong (**Proverbs 20:4**, **Proverbs 21:25**, and **II Thessalonians 3:10**).
 - One man says it is good not to warn someone that their actions are going to cost them his or her soul because it might “cause problems”. The word of God says otherwise (**Ezekiel 3:18-19**, **Acts 15:1-2**, **Galatians 2:1-5**, **Acts 20:26-27**, **II Timothy 4:1-5**, and **Hebrews 3:13**).
 - The point is, the Scriptures have to be our standard (**Luke 4:4** and **Colossians 3:16-17**) to a point of doubtless application of those Scriptures (**Romans 14:23** and **I Thessalonians 5:21**).
- In doing good, should we not follow God’s example (**Ephesians 5:1**)?
 - For whom does God “do good” (**Psalms 125:4**)?
 - While there is a degree in how the unjust are blessed by God (**Matthew 5:45** and **Mark 16:15-16**), aren’t there limits (**Proverbs 15:29**, **Proverbs 28:9**, and **John 9:31**)?
 - Aren’t there even limits placed by God for those “of the household of faith” (**II Chronicles 7:14**, **Isaiah 1:11-16**, **Isaiah 59:1-3**, **John 15:10**, **II John 1:9**, and **Revelation 22:14**)?

- We have to be reasonable (**Acts 17:2**) to rightly divide the word of truth (**II Timothy 2:14-18**).
- The emphasis is that our “good” is to be toward our brethren first (**Mark 3:31-35, John 13:34-35, Hebrews 6:10, I John 3:13-18, and I John 5:1**).

Galatians 6:11 –

- Paul penned this letter with his own hand (cf. **I Corinthians 16:21, Colossians 4:18, and II Thessalonians 3:17**).
- That is not to say they are his words (**Galatians 1:6-12**; cf. **Matthew 10:16-20, John 14:26, John 16:13, I Corinthians 2:9-13, I Corinthians 11:23, I Corinthians 14:37, Ephesians 3:1-9, I Thessalonians 2:13, and II Peter 3:1-2**).

Galatians 6:12 –

- Some people just put on a show (**Matthew 6:1-8, Matthew 6:16, and Matthew 23:28**).
- Shows before men do not justify people before God (**Luke 16:15, Luke 20:45-47, and II Corinthians 10:12-18**).
- They were binding circumcision (**Acts 15:5**) as a compromise to avoid persecution (**Galatians 2:11-17**).
- Faithful Christians must never compromise the truth (**Philippians 1:17 and Jude 1:3-4**).
- Faithful Christians must always be willing to suffer for the cause of Christ (**Matthew 5:10-12, Luke 6:22-26, Acts 5:27-42, II Timothy 2:12, II Timothy 3:11-12, and Revelation 2:8-11**).

Galatians 6:13 –

- Those who had been binding the law weren’t even keeping it themselves. They were just binding it to glory on those who listened to them (**Matthew 23:1-5 and Romans 2:1-29**).
- The whole motive of those people was wrong (**I Corinthians 3:21**).

Galatians 6:14 –

- God forbid that men should glory in or of themselves (**Jeremiah 9:23-24, Ezekiel 28:1-19, Daniel 5:18-21, Acts 12:18-23, and I Corinthians 1:25-31**).
- Paul did not want glorified (**Acts 14:8-15 and I Corinthians 1:10-17**).
- Paul’s focus was Christ (**I Corinthians 1:18, I Corinthians 2:2, and Philippians 3:3-8**).
- The language of “by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world” must be understood in light of other Scriptures (**Galatians 2:20, Colossians 2:20, Philippians 1:20-21, and Philippians 3:10**).

Galatians 6:15 –

- Circumcision doesn’t matter (**Galatians 5:1-6**).
- Being a new creature does (**Romans 6:3-6, II Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 4:24-32, Colossians 3:1-17, Titus 3:3-8, and I Peter 4:1-5**).

Galatians 6:16 –

- Walk by THE RULE (**Philippians 3:15-18**, **Colossians 2:5-7**, and **I John 2:3-6**) rather than the old rules that brought them into bondage and whereof they are now free (**Romans 7:1-6**).
- Peace and mercy will be to those who are obedient to Christ (**Acts 10:36**, **Romans 5:1**, **II John 1:3-4**, and **Jude 1:21**).
- The Israel of God was a nation (**Deuteronomy 7:1-8**), but are now a spiritual people of all nations (**Ephesians 2:11-17**, **Galatians 3:26-29**, and **I Peter 2:1-12**).
- Physical circumcision no longer marks the real Israel (**Romans 2:28-29**).

Galatians 6:17 –

- It was time for whatever trouble they were causing Paul to stop. Their change of view of Paul (**Galatians 4:11-20**) needed to reverse back to the way it once was.
- The evidence of His work was not circumcision, but rather his sufferings for Christ; which bear witnesses to his faithfulness (**II Corinthians 1:5**, **II Corinthians 4:10**, **II Corinthians 11:12-33**, **Colossians 1:24**, and **I Thessalonians 2:2**).

Galatians 6:18 –

- Paul closes this epistle in a similar manner as he had others (**Romans 16:24**, **I Corinthians 16:23**, **II Corinthians 13:14**, etc.).
- We should not read into his saying “with your spirit” as some redirected point in getting them to stop thinking carnally. Paul used similar language with the spiritually minded as well (**Philemon 1:25** and **II Timothy 4:22**).