

Closing Thoughts

Galatians 6:1-18
Stephanie Fehr | June 14

Galatians 6:1-18

- vv.1-6: Pastoral Comments
- vv.7-10: Reap and Sow
- vv.11-18: Closing Remarks

vv.1-6: Pastoral Comments

- vv.1-5: Theme: bearing one another's burdens
- v.1: how to respond to someone caught in sin
 - With gentleness
- Issue of pride
 - v.3: "If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself."

vv.1-6: Pastoral Comments

- v.2: "bear one another's burdens"
- we are responsible for our own actions and should be carrying our own load as well (v.5)
- Mutual accountability
- Personal responsibility

vv.1-6: Pastoral Comments

- v.6: teachers receiving payment; paying teachers if you have been taught by them
- In sum: the outworking of life in the Spirit in community

vv.7-10: Reap and Sow

7-8: Don't be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God!—harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life.

vv.7-10: Reap and Sow

- Eternal life: "This is eternal life, that they may know you, the one true God, & Jesus Christ whom you have sent." (John 17:3)
- Requires some effort - "doing good"
- v.10: emphasizes loving those within the faith community

vv.11-18: Closing Remarks

- v.11: "See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand!"
- Colossians 4:18 we read: "I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand..."
- 2 Thessalonians 3:17: "I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand, which is the distinguishing mark in all my letters. This is how I write."

vv.11-18: Closing Remarks

- Final warning about the Jewish Christians who have infiltrated Galatia
- They are not following the law in the first place; hypocrites (v.13)
- Brag about adding to their numbers; nationalism

vv.11-18: Closing Remarks

- v.14: "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."
- Cruciform

vv.11-18: Closing Remarks

- 2:20: "...Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."
- 3:1: "For it's obvious that you no longer have the crucified Jesus in clear focus in your lives. His sacrifice on the cross was certainly set before you clearly enough."

vv.11-18: Closing Remarks

- It was an oxymoron to 'boast' in the cross
- Upside-down Kingdom of God
- 2 Corinthians 11: Paul "boasts" of all sorts of sufferings
- v.30: "If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness."

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 - Gal. 5:17: marks on Paul's body

vv.11-18: Closing Remarks

- v.15: "Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation."
- New value system
- 5:6: "...The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."

vv.11-18: Closing Remarks

- Bible Project: God is forming "the new multi-ethnic family of the Messiah, full of faith in Jesus, loving God & others in the power of the Spirit."

Takeaways

- Embrace our mutual accountability and personal responsibility
- Keep our eyes on the cross and Jesus Christ
- Keep in step with the Spirit
- God is forming the multi-ethnic family of the God, full of faith in Jesus, loving God & others in the power of the Spirit