

GALATIANS 6:1-18

REVIEW...

- **1ST - GALATIANS 1:1-2:21 - PAUL PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH THE GOSPEL OF GRACE...**
 - The message of the Gospel - Grace and Peace through the cross of Jesus...
 - Having been saved by Grace - why try and grow in Jesus through the Law...
- **2ND - GALATIANS 3:1-4:31 - THE GOSPEL OF GRACE IN LIGHT OF THE LAW OF MOSES..**
 - Anyone who follows the Law/works - is under a curse - **Deuteronomy 27:26**
 - The Law was given to reveal our sin - show us a need for a savior - Jesus...
- **3RD - GALATIANS 5:1-26 - THE APPLICATION OF GOSPEL OF GRACE IN OUR DAILY LIVES...**
 - Two commands - stand in the liberty we have in Jesus / Do not get wrapped up in bondage
 - Those who taught legalism were trying to trip up the believers...
 - Paul told them to kick them out - because a little leaven spreads quickly...
 - The Spirit vs. the Flesh - the daily battle fought over our mind...
 - We cannot overcome the flesh by our own efforts / works - we will fail...
 - But as we walk in the Spirit - we will not give in to the desires of our flesh!
 - Paul gave two lists so we could examine our lives - works of the flesh or fruit of the Spirit

WHAT GRACE MEANS... (3 THINGS)

- **1ST - GRACE MEANS - HELPING A BROTHER IN NEED... VS. 1-6 (3 THINGS)**
 - 1st - If you know someone who is struggling with sin - help out... vs. 1-2
 - This is not talking about someone who wants to sin - you can do to help them - just pray...
 - It is hard to see someone destroy their lives with poor sinful choices...
 - Yet there are people who do not want to stop sinning - they like the way they live...
 - And there is really not much you can do for them - but wait - till they are broken...
 - If someone is struggling with sin - and want to stop - then we are called to help them out...
 - Once a person realizes they need to change - sees their sin is destructive...
 - That is when we can - in fact need to - step in and help them in any way we can...
 - By giving them accountability - be willing to ask them the hard questions...
 - If they struggle with lust - have you looked at 'those pictures'...
 - If they struggle with drinking - 'have you been tempted to pick up 'the bottle'...
 - Not so that we can condemn them - but to help them avoid sin!
 - By helping to 'restore' them - the word means to mend a broken net - **Matthew 4:21**
 - Sin tears lives apart - it separates us from our walk with Jesus Christ...
 - When we make a mistake - we feel condemned - like we cannot come to Jesus...
 - That is when we need someone to come along side - and point us to Jesus...
 - **Romans 8:1** - "There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus."

- Jesus is the in the business of forgiving sins - mending torn up lives!
- Conviction is good - the work of God's Spirit telling us not to sin - but repent...
 - Condemnation is bad - focusing on our failures - dwelling on our mistakes...
 - Disappointed - frustrated - that we cannot keep ourselves from sin...
 - When we are focused on our mistakes - we are not looking to Jesus...
 - We are condemning ourselves - even though God says we are NOT guilty...
 - **I John 3:20** - "For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart."
 - If someone is caught up in self-loathing / pity over their sins and poor choices...
 - We need to help them get their eyes off themselves - and put them back onto Jesus!
- But we must be careful not to get pulled into their sin...
 - Often when people are caught up in sin - they are not comfortable coming to church...
 - They think everyone knows - and is talking about 'what they did'...
 - They fear if they come they will look foolish - so they stay away...
 - So it is our responsibility to go to them - reach them where they are!
 - If they are wandering around the plaza - wander with them...
 - But we do need to be careful - we do not want to get caught up in their sin...
 - Do not get sucked what they are doing - but go and share Jesus with them!
- By helping carry one another's 'burden'- we fulfill the Law of Christ...
 - The word 'burden' - means overwhelming / crushing weight...
 - It is the same word used in **John 19:17** - of Jesus carrying the cross!
 - When we see our brother - 'over loaded' / weighed down we NEED to help...
 - In doing so we fulfill the Law of Christ that Jesus gave us to us...
 - The Law of Christ - is to love each other the way Jesus loved us...
 - **John 15:12** - "My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."
 - God did not love us only when we did the right thing - He loves us as sinners...
 - **Romans 5:8** - "God demonstrates His love ... while we were sinners, Christ died for us!"
 - It is easy to love someone who is perfect - is not struggling with sin...
 - But that is not the Love of Christ - we are called to Love sinners!
- 2nd - Do not boast in the failures of others... vs. 3-5
 - There are people who like to look down on the mistakes of others...
 - The reason - if they focus on others mistakes - it makes them look better...
 - There are many today who enjoy tearing others down - so they do not look so bad...
 - Want to look tall - stand next to the short guy / white - next to the dark guy...
 - If you want to look 'good' point out all the sin of the 'bad' guy...
 - Did you even notice how people love to gossip about those who are sinning...
 - As though somehow they are more righteous - because at least they are 'not as bad'...
 - But they are deceiving themselves - and need to examine their own lives...
 - Whenever we try to 'justify' ourselves - we end up having to lower God's standards...
 - Looking for people who are worse sinners than we are - so we look better!
 - Assume because we are more 'Godly' than there are - we are a good person...
 - But God does not grade on a curve - He has only one standard - His Word...
 - And compared to God's standard - all of us are in desperate need of Jesus!

- So do not rejoice in others failure - we are ultimately only responsible for our own actions...
 - We must all carry our own 'burden' - different word - it means fair portion...
 - The truth is we will all stand before Jesus – and be accountable for our lives...
 - So rather than focusing on what others are doing right or wrong...
 - We need to make sure we are walking pure and holy before the Lord!
- 3rd - Provide for those who teach the Word... vs. 6
 - One of the best ways to help those overcome by sin - teaching the Word of God...
 - The only thing that sin does well – is separate us from God
 - The Bible will keep you from sin – sin will keep you from the Bible!
 - Psalms 119:11 – “Your word I have hidden in my heart, I might not sin against You!”
 - Those who ‘instruct’ others in the Word of God - should be paid for their work...
 - As much as possible a pastor should be provided for practically by those within the church
 - I Timothy 5:18 / Matthew 10:10 - “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”
 - If a pastor has to work to support himself practically - little time for the church...
 - It is a blessing to the people to provide for the pastor to free him up to minister
- 2ND - GRACE MEANS - WE DO NOT GET AWAY WITH SIN... VS. 7-10 (3 THINGS)
 - 1st - God is not mocked - sin comes with a price... vs. 7
 - Paul warns us not be deceived - we cannot ‘turn our nose up’ at God...
 - Many assume they are ‘ok’ because God does not immediately punish them...
 - They make mistake of interpreting God’s ‘patience’ for God’s ‘acceptance’...
 - When we see the wicked/godless/evil men of the world prosper – we wonder...
 - Where is the justice of God – where is His judgment against sin...
 - Just because God has not judged yet – does not mean God will not judge...
 - Psalm 73:16-17 – “So I tried to understand why the wicked prosper. But what a difficult task it is! Then one day I went into your sanctuary... and I thought about the destiny of the wicked.”
 - God is patient – longsuffering – giving time to repent and turn back to Him...
 - God waits to punish sin only because He loves the sinner – II Peter 3:9
 - God is patient – longsuffering – to give time to repent and turn back to Him...
 - But if we harden our hearts - choose not to repent - our sin will not remain hidden
 - Numbers 32:22 - “Be sure your sin will find you out...”
 - 2nd - Sowing to the flesh / sowing to the Spirit... vs. 8
 - Paul uses the analogy of sowing and reaping...
 - If you plant a kalamansi seed in the ground - you are going to reap kalamansi...
 - You do not expect to plant a kalamansi seed - and harvest papaya!
 - In the same way we will reap what we sow in our life...
 - If we sow to the flesh - sexual sins / idolatry / jealousy and anger / partying...
 - Then it should come as no surprise that we reap corruption / destruction...
 - Whether it is some disease / prison / fight / death - sin will destroy our life...
 - And in the end it will keep us out of heaven - we will miss out on eternal life!
 - If we sow to the spirit - spending our time with Jesus / in the Word...
 - Then it should come as no surprise that we reap life / blessings...

- We become Godly men - with Godly wives and children - blessed in all we do...
- And in the end - we will inherit eternal life - forever with Jesus!
- 3rd - Therefore do not stop doing what is good... vs. 9-10
 - A harvest does not happen the day after you plant the fruit...
 - You do not plant a seed - and expect there to be fruit on the branches in the morning...
 - And if you sat there and waited for the plant to grow - you would likely give up!
 - The solution is to keep busy - weeding / plowing - in time the fruit will come...
 - So often we want to see the good fruit from our efforts right now!
 - When the fruit does not come - we get tired - assuming nothing will ever happen...
 - It is easy to get frustrated with the failures in our Christian walk...
 - It can be tempting to want to 'give up' - thinking things will never change...
 - Do not give up - good fruit takes time and patience to grow...
 - **Psalm 1:1-3** - "Blessed is the man... delight is in the Law of the Lord... he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth fruit in its season."
 - As we attend church / read our Bibles / pray - changes do happen - slowly...
 - Rather than looking for the fruit - we just need to keep busy serving Jesus...
 - As we are faithful to abide in Jesus - stand up for His Word...
 - In God's time we will bear great fruit - be used powerfully for the Lord!
 - So keep doing good - especially to those who are brother and sisters in the Lord!
- 3rd - **GRACE MEANS - IT IS ALL ABOUT JESUS... vs. 11-18 (3 THINGS)**
 - 1st - See what large letters I have written to you... vs. 11
 - We know Paul dictated most of his letters to the churches - **Romans 16:22**
 - It is believed that Paul had a problem with his eyes - a severe infection...
 - But Paul concludes this letter by personally writing the last 7 verses...
 - And his handwriting was in 'large letters' - because he could not see very well...
 - Proof he wrote this final section - to emphasize its importance to the church!
 - 2nd - The reason for teaching legalism... vs. 12-13
 - The Judaizers only taught the Law - because they did not want to be persecuted...
 - They knew if they stood up for the cross - they would be mocked...
 - One of the first questions you get when you talk about Jesus - 'what is your religion'...
 - Ever wonder why people are so defensive about their 'religion'...
 - It is not because they are so convinced they are right...
 - It is because they want to blend in - they do not want to be made fun of!
 - Yet even those who are teach the religion (*circumcised*) - do not keep their rules (*Law*)...
 - The evidence that people are not convinced of their religion is in their actions...
 - The same person who is adamant about their religion - do not even go to church!
 - They may even try to convince you to believe their religion...
 - But it is only so that they can brag about you - rather than be convicted by you...
 - If you accept religion - then it strengthens their position...

- The more people who are on their side - the more convinced they are they are right...
- In contrast if you stand by Jesus - then they are convicted by your relationship with God!
- 3rd - Boasting only in Jesus Christ... vs. 14-18
 - Paul did not brag about religion - he only boasted in Jesus Christ...
 - Because there is not a single religion (*circumcision*) that can save you...
 - It does not matter if you belong to this church or that church...
 - All that matters is the new life you have by grace through faith in Jesus Christ!
 - **II Corinthians 5:17** - "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation..."
 - Those who follow this rule are the 'Israel' (*people*) of God...
 - The whole purpose of belonging to a religion / denomination - is to be accepted by God...
 - Almost every 'church' out there claims they are 'the church of God'...
 - But it is not about your religion - or your works - that is not what makes you God's people...
 - THE CHURCH of GOD - are those who have a living relationship with Jesus Christ...
 - I bear in my body the marks of Jesus...
 - In Roman times - a slave would be 'branded' with the mark of his master...
 - Much the same way we 'brand' cattle today with the mark of their owner...
 - Paul was saying he was 'branded' by Jesus Christ - he belonged to God...
 - Referring to the 'marks' from his beatings he received for his faith - **II Corinthians 11**
 - What mark do we carry - who owns us...
 - Are we still bound up in sin - in bondage to our flesh - **Romans 6:16**
 - Are we still bound up in empty religion - foolishly thinking rules make us right with God
 - Or do we carry the mark of Jesus - do we show the new life we have in Christ...
 - Maybe the fruit is slow in coming - but are confident we are the people of God!
 - The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you in Spirit - Amen!