

Galatians Chapter 6

Verse 10

1. Because of the promise of verse 9, Paul admonishes the believer to continue to do good.
2. Paul begins, "*As we have therefore opportunity...*"
 - God does not expect you to give what you don't have. **2 Corinthians 8:12**
 - But if God has blessed you, God expects you to take those blessings and use them to bless others. **2 Corinthians 8:13-14** ("at this time" is the same Greek word translated "opportunity" in **Galatians 6:10**)
 - When God blesses us with material blessings, the question is not, "How can I spend this on myself?" The question should be, "How can I take this and use it to be a blessing to others?" It is looked at as an opportunity to do some sowing! **2 Corinthians 9:6-8**
3. Our first responsibility is to the household of faith - the local assembly of believers where we fellowship and are taught the Word (this ties in with verse 6).
4. But we should also be looking for ways that we can be a blessing to those outside of the Body of Christ. They need to see **visible** demonstrations of our love (**Illustration:** WTB and Easter outreach). **1 Thessalonians 3:12**
5. Why would people give of themselves and their resources to others?
 - For the same reason a farmer sweats and toils in the fields and plants seed (that cost money) into the dirt.
 - Because we are anticipating the harvest!
 - We know that **we shall reap** if we faint not.

Verse 11

1. As we mentioned in 4:14, many believe that Paul's thorn in the flesh was an eye affliction of some sort. This verse seems to further prove that idea.
2. It appears that this disease left Paul partially blind. He says, "*Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand.*"
3. Normally, Paul would dictate his letters to another person who actually penned them, but because of the urgency of this situation, Paul wrote this letter himself, apparently with great difficulty.
4. This would further prove his great love for these people.

Verse 12

1. For six chapters, Paul has laid out a clear doctrinal case for these Gentile believers to live under grace through faith, not under the legalism of the law.
2. In the conclusion of this letter, Paul doesn't let off of the gas. He keeps it to the floor. He will end this letter with a final, knock-out punch to the Jewish legalists that were attempting to bring these Gentile converts under the law.
 - He exposes their hidden agenda and hidden motives.

3. Their hidden agenda was to make **themselves** look good at the expense of these Gentile believers. Every Gentile they could proselyte into their religious system was another feather in their cap.
 - "To make a fair shew" means "to make a display."
 - These people were religious head-hunters. Every Gentile convert that they could constrain (compel) to be circumcised was another trophy in their case.
 - This kind of self-serving attitude still prevails in so many religious circles and even self-proclaimed "Bible preaching" churches.
 - Instead of the attitude, "How can we help people?" it's the attitude, "How can people help us?" People are simply a means to a desired end.
4. What was the hidden motive of the Jewish legalists?
 - They desired popularity and acceptance.
 - They were proclaiming the religious system of the law "lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ."
5. The apostle Paul was totally committed to proclaiming the message of the cross of Christ. **1 Corinthians 1:17-18, 2:2**
 - The cross exposes the wickedness and sinfulness of mankind. It humbles all individuals and calls upon them to admit their sin and their need of a Savior.
 - It proclaims that there is only one Savior, and calls upon lost mankind to humbly call upon Him for forgiveness and deliverance from sin's penalty.
 - The necessity of the cross demonstrates mankind's total inability to do anything to save themselves. All of the clever religious systems of mankind are rendered ineffective and unable to save (**Philippians 3:5-9**). This is why it is an offence to many. **Galatians 5:11**
 - The question becomes very simply, "What will you do with this Jesus who died for your sin on the cross? Will you accept Him or reject Him?"
6. The Jewish legalists claimed to believe in Jesus, but continued to teach the necessity of keeping the Mosaic Law. This allowed them to avoid the persecution from the Jews that Paul encountered.
7. But Paul's instructions are clear to the church. We are to follow Paul. We are to follow his example and his teachings. **1 Corinthians 4:16-17, 11:1, 14:37; Ephesians 3:2-4; Philippians 3:17-19; Colossians 1:25; 1 Thessalonians 1:6, 2:13; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-9, 14; 1 Timothy 1:16, 2:7; 2 Timothy 1:13, 2:2, 3:13-14; Titus 2:15**
8. Like the Judaizers, multitudes of professing Christians have forsaken the teachings of grace given to Paul from Jesus Christ (**Galatians 1:11-12**). Why is this?
 - Many times it is for the same reason that Paul cites in this verse - in order to gain popularity and acceptance from a broad scope of people.
 - Just as Paul's teachings were not widely popular in his day, they will not be today either.