

Galatians: Lesson #34: Christian Duties

Notes for Parents to Study with Their Children

For Sunday, August 27th

Read Gal. 6:1-18 (a simplified explanation of the text is supplied at the end of these notes).

Memory Verse: Gal. 6:7 “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”

Our Responsibilities as Christians

- **Restoring.** If a member of your family was lost, would you help look for them? Of course, we all would. Sometimes members of God’s family get “lost.” By that I mean they stop coming to church or they stop living right. Christians should want to help them get back to coming to church and serving God.
- **Burden-bearing.** Now what if your friend had to carry a whole bunch of books and school. If he had so many that he couldn’t lift them all and maybe was dropping them, would you help him carry some? I’m sure you would. When you have something large to carry, the Bible calls that a burden and says we should be willing to help carry each other’s burdens. But a burden isn’t always something to lift, it can also be a problem they have. Maybe one of their relatives (like a grandmother) just died and they feel sad. By telling them your sorry and being their friend, you may help them feel better and lift a little of the burden off of them. Anything that helps someone else will help lift their burden.
- **Test yourself to be sure you are right.** In school we take tests to see if we are really learning the subject. Sometimes it’s good to test yourself before the teacher gives you a test (like a practice spelling test). Christians have to test themselves. I mean they have to look at their lives and make sure they are following what Christ said to do. Sometimes we may think we really are doing good, but when we test ourselves we realize that we have learned what we are supposed to.
- **Carry your own load.** Its true that we need to help others carry their burdens, but some things we have to do, and no one else can do them for us. When we have a chore to do, we really shouldn’t think anyone else should have to do it for us. Let’s say we got our room really messy getting out a lot of toys. We shouldn’t expect our mom to have to pick that up. That’s our job. We should be willing to do our own work. In serving God, we have to carry our own load, and by that I mean we can’t expect other people to do our work.
- **Work with our Bible teacher.** When someone has taught us God’s Word we should appreciate it. We should thank them for what they do. We should be willing to help them to make the class better. We can do that by not being wild in class. Listen to the teacher and don’t disrupt the class. Help your teacher if he or she needs your help.

Sowing and Reaping

- What does the Bible mean when it talks about sowing? It’s talking about planting seeds.

- What does the Bible mean by reaping? It is talking about how the seeds have grown into plants and the plants have grown fruit. Reaping is when you go pick or harvest the fruit.
- One of the rules God gave in nature is that when you plant a certain kind of seed, you get that kind of plant. If you plant a watermelon seed, then you'll get watermelon. If you plant a kernel of corn, you will get corn.
- If we plant good, godly seed like God would have us to, God will give us a harvest someday of good things. He'll give us heaven.
- If we plant bad, sinful seed, we won't have heaven, but will have to face punishment.
- When a person goes to work at a job, they usually get paid in a week or two. But when a farmer plants seed, he has to wait for several months before he gets his crop. Christians are more like the farmer. We serve God, but our biggest reward, Heaven, won't come in a few days, but when our lives are over. That means we have to keep working as Christians and not get tired of doing what's right, because the time is coming when we will reap, we will get to enjoy what we've worked for.

Paul Reminds the Galatians Again About the Law of Moses

- Most of what Paul wrote to the Galatians about was why they didn't have to keep the Law of Moses. You remember how we've been talking about that in our classes.
- One more time as Paul closes his letter, he tells them that what's important is to serve Christ. Keeping the Law of Moses won't save them.

Simplified Explanation of the Text

Christian Responsibilities

6:1 Brethren, if someone is overtaken by something that causes them to fall by the wayside, you who are spiritual should restore that person in a spirit of gentleness. But as you do this, look at yourself, so that you are not tempted, too.

2 Help carry each other's burdens, and in that way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

3 Some people deceive themselves by thinking of themselves a certain way, when they are really not that way at all.

4 To solve that problem, each person needs to examine their own work. Then they will have a reason to rejoice in what they did on their own, instead of what others have done.

5 Everyone will have to carry their own load.

6 Let those who've been taught God's Word should be willing to share all good things with the one who teaches.

Sowing and Reaping

7 Don't be deceived, God is not mocked. Whatever seed a person has planted, is exactly what they are going to reap.

8 People who sow the deeds of their lives for sinful things and living only for physical things, will ultimately reap a harvest of corruption. But those who sow with a view toward the Spirit will reap everlasting life from the Spirit.

9 And let's not allow ourselves to become tired and discouraged in doing good and commendable works, because in our own season we will reap our harvest if we don't lose our strength.

10 So while we have a season we can do good in, let's do it to all, especially to those who belong to the household of faith.

Paul Writes This Letter

11 I've written these words with my own hands, and you can see how large the letters are.

In Christ Circumcision Means Nothing

12 Now these people who are so intent on everything looking proper (as far as the physical man goes), they are the ones trying to force you to be circumcised. But the reason they want you to be circumcised is so that their fellow Jews won't persecute them because of the cross of Christ.

13 Now these who are circumcised don't even keep all the Law themselves, but they want you to be circumcised so that they can boast to the Jews that you have submitted to their physical requirements.

14 But I will never boast of anything except about what the Lord Jesus Christ did on the cross. By which the world was crucified to me, and I was crucified to the world.

15 Because in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision or uncircumcision will accomplish anything, but becoming a new creature in Christ will.

16 So I pronounce peace and mercy on all who will proceed and conform to this correct rule, even on the Israel of God.

17 And in the future, no one better trouble me about this circumcision issue, because I already have the scars on my body to show I belong to Jesus.

18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.