



"Getting Back To Real Christianity" (Galatians 6:1-10)

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The Christianity these false teachers were leading the churches of Galatia into was not genuine Christianity. It was faith in Christ plus legalism/law, religious tradition. It focused one's attention on outward religious observances rather than on inward spiritual realities, it produced spiritual pride in them rather than Christ-like humility, robbed them of their joy...Now, at the close of Paul's letter to these churches, he makes an abrupt but practical turn. He brings them back to what real Christianity looks like...

I. THE TEXT

v.1b Don't think that you could not fail just the same as the one who needs to be restored.

v.2 The word here is one that describes a heavy crushing burden that is more than one person can bare by themselves.

vv.4-5 The word for carrying one's own load here describes a soldier's backpack. Same word as in Matthew 11: 28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

v.6 What does this mean?

* It means that for all of you who have emailed me, written me thank you notes, come up personally and told me how much the Lord has used my teaching to bless you and help you grow in the Lord, that you sit down and write a check to Danny Hodges, or if giving cash, place it in an envelope with my name on it, and drop it in one of the offering boxes. Or, if you choose to do it another way, that you go to Wal-Mart, or better yet, West Marine, buy that generous gift card, place it in an envelope with my name on it, and during our next worship service (during the worship), you bring your gift, place it here at the altar, and the ushers will gather it up and deliver it to me after the service...

* Note: I believe the primary place to honor the Lord with our wealth is the local church. Folks, if you are honoring the Lord in giving regularly through this local church, then you don't have to give me a thing, because your tithes and offerings to the Lord through this local fellowship provides for my needs...

* Paul was a missionary. He had a pastor's heart, but no regular congregation that supported his ministry. It means that if they have received spiritually through Paul's ministry (or some other ministry), that they were to "share all good things" in response to what they have received.

* If there is some minister you listen to regularly on the radio, and you are blessed through their ministry, then give to support their ministry...

* I Cor.9: 9 For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is it about oxen that God is concerned?

10 Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because when the plowman plows and the thresher threshes, they ought to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest. 11 If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you?

vv.7-9 The idea is that it reaps things that will last...

* 853. aphanizo, af-an-id'-zo; from G852; to render unapparent, i.e. (act.) consume (becloud), or (pass.) disappear (be destroyed):--corrupt, disfigure, perish, vanish away.

* Matthew 6: 19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

* I John 2: 17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

II. LESSONS

A. Genuine Christianity's Character

1. It is not proud (v.3)

* Luke 18: 11 The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

* Examines one's own life before judging others (See Matthew 7:1-5). The Pharisees were always judging others, when they should have been judging themselves.

2. Spirit led, others oriented (vv.7-8)

3. It is into restoration, not condemnation

* Matthew 26: 33 Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will."
34 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times."

35 But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you."

* See Luke 22:46-62; What was going through Peter's mind. Could he be that in his sorrow, he wondered if he could ever be restored to the place he once had in Jesus' team...

* Mark 16: 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'

* See John 21:15-22

* The woman caught in adultery (John 8:3-11); the woman at the well (John 4); the sinful woman (Luke 7:36-50); the leper (Matthew 8:1-4)

4. It helps to carry burdens, not create them

* Luke 11: 46 Jesus replied, "And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.

* Perhaps the best story in the N.T. of people bearing someone's burden is found in Luke 5:17-26/Mark 2...

B. Genuine Christianity's Conduct

* The emphasis is more on doing good rather than not doing evil/religious traditions/legalism.

* Acts 10: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good...

* Hebrews 13: 16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

* I Timothy 6: 17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

* Rom.12: 13 Share with God's people who are in need.

* Eph.4: 28 He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

* John Wesley - "Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

* If I do what I am supposed to do, I will not have time to do what I am not supposed to do.

C. Genuine Christianity's Community

* It's primary mission for doing good is inward (v.10b). This can only happen in the context of community.

* See Acts 2:46-47; 4:32-35

* This is why we have life groups...This is why our primary focus in our Women of Heart, Men of Arms, and Special Needs ministries are to the people who are actively part of this local fellowship.

* John 13: 35 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

CONCLUSION

* Thank God for the open doors God continues to give this local fellowship out in the community. But we must never forget that our primary ministry is in the community of the church...Would you get plugged in, so that you can be used by the Lord to help carry some burdens...would you get plugged in, so that the Lord could use His body to help life some burdens that He never intended for you to carry alone?