



WEEK 6

GALATIANS CHAPTER 6

WEEK 6

DAY 36 - MONDAY

Galatians 6:1-10, John 15:9-17

BEAR ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS

Chapter five of Galatians closed with Paul instructing his friends to walk by the Spirit. Now he says, "Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal 6:2). In other words, as we walk by the Spirit, we are to walk alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ. When someone trips headlong into sin, we are to "restore such a person with a gentle spirit" (v.1), helping them get back on their feet so they can continue to walk in "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Gal 5:22-23). Paul says the only law that matters is "the law of Christ"—and that law is fulfilled when we "carry one another's burdens." After all, remember that when Jesus carried His cross through the streets of Jerusalem, falling under its weight, He was carrying our burdens. That cross was our rightful punishment, the curse we deserved for our rebellion against God. We fulfill the law of Christ when we follow Jesus's lead, bearing the burdens of those whom we love. Each one of us must battle against his own flesh, the snares of the devil, and the traps of this world, but we don't fight alone. God has given us the local church, brothers and sisters who also love the Lord, to help us. But all too often we reject this help out of pride, shame, or fear. We don't share our struggles. We don't ask for prayer. We don't confess our sins. And so, we don't have someone by our side to pick us up when we fall. Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). If we are going to take this command seriously, we can't live the Christian life as a solo adventure. We must go together, and we must carry one another.

Written by John Greco - *He Reads Truth*

**WHO DO YOU SHARE YOUR
BURDENS WITH? WHO ARE
YOU CARRYING BURDENS
FOR? TAKE SOME TIME TO
EVALUATE WHO MIGHT BE IN
YOUR LIFE THAT NEEDS YOU
TO WALK WITH THEM AND
WHO YOU CAN ASK TO WALK
WITH YOU.**

WEEK 6

DAY 37 - TUESDAY

Galatians 6:1-10, Luke 15:11-32

LOST AND FOUND

We are called to bear one another's burdens, to walk alongside each other on this faith journey. We are called to focus on the Lord and care for others. Even when we're busy. Even when the burdens of others seem inconvenient. Even when we really, really just want to push them away. Fortunately, Paul delivers some practical direction for us. He shows what walking by the Spirit looks like in some very common and practical circumstances. His first instruction: deal tenderly with those overtaken in wrongdoing (v.1). To be overtaken in wrongdoing is to be caught by temptation and then falter. This is very different from someone who has chosen to deliberately walk in sin, willfully pursuing it. In order to love others well, we need to remember our own sinfulness and God's grace to us. Yes, sin must be treated as sin, but always in the spirit of love, and in light of God's forgiveness and constant love for us. And then we must make the way home easy, restoring them with a gentle spirit, responding in love rather than in wrath and fury. Remember the parable of the Prodigal Son? (Luke 15:11-32). We ought to make the way home easy, welcoming them, celebrating and rejoicing because what once "was lost [has been] found" (v.32). It's far too easy to deal with other people's sins, well... sinfully. *Ironic, huh?* But knowing full well the battle between flesh and Spirit that actively wars within each one of us (Galatians 5:17), we ought to show mercy and tenderness toward those who stumble, because we, too, live only by the tender mercy of God. Apart from His grace, none of us could stand before Him. Paul's second instruction is to carry one another's burdens, both the circumstantial burdens of this life, like finances, food, and shelter, and also the burdens of sin and temptation. We are to be a strengthening influence for our fellow sojourners in the faith— in time of need, in time of weakness, in times of faltering. "In this way," Paul declares, "[we] will fulfill the law of Christ" (v.2). Wow. What a statement. We like to make sure our neighbors are dotting their I's and crossing their T's, instead of seeking ways to love and serve them as Christ has loved and served us—as a humble servant, laying down His life in love for us. May we learn to follow the pattern of Christ, not in duty, but in love. In this way, we will not tire of doing good, but will reap the fruit of faithful love in the communion of the saints.

Written by Rebecca Faires - *She Reads Truth*

**WHAT DID GOD REVEAL TO
YOU TODAY AS YOU READ
GALATIANS ALONGSIDE THE
STORY OF THE PRODIGAL SON?**

WEEK 6

DAY 38 - WEDNESDAY

Galatians 6:11-18

GOSPEL OF GRACE

At the end of Galatians, Paul does something to make sure the Galatians can “recognize” him. He stops dictating the letter to his scribe and picks up the stylus himself: “Look at what large letters I use as I write to you in my own handwriting” (Gal 6:11). In other words, “It’s really me here on the other end of this conversation. It’s Paul!

Your friend!” Paul’s personal relationship with the Christians in Galatia went deeper than any logical or biblical argument he could make to steer them away from the false teaching that threatened to rob them of the true gospel and steal their joy. So, his final appeal is to tell his friends about his scars. “I bear on my body the marks of Jesus” (Gal 6:17). Paul had been persecuted just about everywhere he went—imprisoned, beaten, and left for dead more than once. He could have saved himself a world of hurt, at least from the Jews who opposed him, if he would have just advocated for circumcision in his calls to repentance. But that would be changing the gospel of grace into a gospel of works. He believed so strongly that Jesus, and Jesus alone, was enough that he could not compromise, not for all the comforts in the world. Do you believe Jesus is enough? Or have you believed the lie that there’s something you must do to earn eternal life with God? The gospel is the most precious and priceless message that’s ever been shared. Paul stands in good company with all those, down through the centuries, who have suffered for a gospel that can seem just too good to be true. Thank Jesus today for the gospel of grace. And may we pray for one another with these final words of Paul here in Galatians: “Brothers and sisters, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen” (Gal 6:18).

Written by John Greco - *He Reads Truth*

**HAVE YOU BELIEVED THE LIE
THAT YOU MUST HAVE JESUS
+ SOMETHING ELSE?**

**ARE YOU WILLING TO
CONFRONT THIS LIE AS PAUL
DID TO SEEK THE TRUTH OF
THE GOSPEL?**

**LET THE TRUTH OF THE
GOSPEL OF GRACE SETTLE IN
YOUR HEART TODAY. JESUS
IS ENOUGH.**

WEEK 6

DAY 39 - THURSDAY

Galatians 6:11-18, Jeremiah 9:23-24, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

BOAST IN THE LORD FOR HE IS WORTHY

Instead of boasting in what amounts to little more than circumstances from our birth, we are called to boast in the Lord (Gal 6:14). And “the one who boasts should boast in this: that he understands and knows me—that I am the LORD, showing faithful love, justice, and righteousness on the earth, for I delight in these things. This is the LORD’s declaration” (Jeremiah 9:24).

The Hebrew word for God’s “enduring, covenantal love” is *hesed*. In his book *Inexpressible*, Michael Card defines *hesed* beautifully as, “When the person from whom I have a right to expect nothing gives me everything.” Our boasting then, is to be in the undeserved and overwhelming love of Christ, who—while we were His enemies, helpless in our sin—gave His life for us, so that we could be children of God (Rom 5:6-11). Paul’s benediction appeals to this same *hesed*, as he speaks to the Galatian church that had foolishly followed after the false teachings of the Judaizers, and wandered from the life of the Spirit. As he had earlier called on them to deal gently with those who are overtaken by sin, so also Paul deals gently with the Galatians. Why? Because Christ has dealt gently with Paul. And so Paul can boast in one thing only: the *hesed* of God, seen most clearly in the cross of Christ. He exhorts the Galatians to do the same. The apostle then blesses the Galatians with a benediction that can only result from the steadfast love of God. Because of God’s undeserved and faithful love, we have fellowship with one another. We have restoration when we are overtaken in sin, and reconciliation with those we have offended, including Christ our Lord. Because of His love for us, we are part of the family of God, brothers and sisters, and co-heirs with Christ to the inheritance of God’s eternal kingdom. Paul goes on to bless the Galatians with the grace of Christ, for it is His grace alone which saves, restores, sustains, secures, and transforms us into His own likeness. This He does by the work of His Spirit in our spirits, in our hearts, and in our minds. In Him, we are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The final note of Paul’s epistle to the Galatians is a resounding praise of Christ, in whom alone we boast.

Written by Rebecca Faires - *She Reads Truth*

**WHAT DOES GOD’S LOVE
MEAN TO YOU?**

**HOW CAN YOU BOAST IN THE
LORD TODAY?**

WEEK 6

DAY 40 – FRIDAY – GALATIANS OVERVIEW

Galatians 2:16, 20-21, Galatians 3:27-28, Galatians 5:1, 13, Galatians 6:2, 9-10

KEY THEMES FROM GALATIANS (FROM ESV STUDY BIBLE)	GALATIANS
In his sin-bearing death, Christ is a substitute for all Christians, whom he brings into a new realm of freedom and life.	1:4; 2:20; 3:13
This gospel of Christ is for humanity, but there is no sense in which it has its origin in humanity: it comes only from God. Paul is himself an illustration of this: his conversion to Christ and his apostleship were not through human consultation but through the direct revelation of Christ.	1:1, 11-12, 15-20
The gospel is appropriated not by works of law but by faith, which is the route to justification.	2:16
To require circumcision and other Mosaic ceremonies such as dietary laws and Jewish holidays as a supplement to faith is to fall back from the realm of grace, faith, and freedom, and to come under the whole law and its curse, since comprehensive observance of the law is impossible.	2:12-14, 16; 3:10; 4:10; 5:3
OT Scripture itself testifies to the truth of justification by faith, both in the life of Abraham and in the prophecy of Habakkuk.	Gen. 15:6; Hab. 2:4
The Christian life has its source in the believer having died with Christ to sin, and thereby having renounced the flesh.	5:24; 6:14
The Spirit is the source of power and guidance in the Christian life, and the work of the Spirit produces love and faith.	5:6, 16, 18, 25
The Christian life consists not in pleasing people but in pleasing Christ our master and being willing to suffer persecution for the sake of his cross.	1:10; 6:12, 14

WHICH OF THESE THEMES IMPACTED YOU THE MOST AS YOU STUDIED GALATIANS? EXPLAIN.

WEEK 6

DAY 41 - SATURDAY - GRACE DAY

Use today to rest, pray and catch up on any of this week's reading that you missed.

In this week's reading:

1. *What themes did you see emerge?*
2. *What was the biggest thing that God revealed to you this week?*
3. *What next step do you need to take based on what He revealed to you this week?*

WEEK 6

DAY 42 – SUNDAY– REFLECTION DAY

Reflect on these passages.

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me

Galatians 2:19b-20

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through love.

Galatians 5:6

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another.

Galatians 5:13

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Galatians 5:16

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23a

So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

Galatians 6:10

CLOSING REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

What does Galatians say about living by faith?

How does Galatians shape your understanding of the story of redemption?

How would you summarize the message of Galatians?

**WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST THING THAT GOD REVEALED TO YOU DURING THESE 6 WEEKS IN HIS WORD?
WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT GOD OR YOURSELF THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW 6 WEEKS AGO?**

NOW WHAT?

There's transformative power in reading God's Word. Why? Because it is God speaking directly to our hearts through His works of the past, His instruction and encouragement, and the expressing of His heart for us. Scripture is our opportunity to have our hearts connected to His heart. That's powerful. When we intentionally approach God's Word this is what we can expect.

Hopefully over these last six weeks you had that experience. Hopefully you felt God at times like you never had before. Hopefully you found yourself more aware of His presence and more attuned to His will than you have before. This is the hope of our staff and the purpose for writing, encouraging, and leading you through this intentional study through the Word of God.

Whenever we experience a spiritual breakthrough, or come to the end of a rhythmic practice of deeper connection with God we inevitably come to this question: now what? After we are moved through worship and a powerful message on a weekend, or we have had an intentional time of prayer, or we have finished a verse, chapter, or book of the Bible we find ourselves filled up, eager, and willing, but often unsure what to do to continue this union with Christ. We have all been there. There are a few things though that might help us to continue to lean, grow, and go forward in God's presence.

One, don't lose sight of the message you have just read over the last six weeks that Paul gave to the Galatians. Remember, your faith is not built on works, but on grace. That means one of the best things you can do for your soul and relationship with Jesus is to rest in His salvation. Practically, when you find yourself seeking what other "work" you need to do to earn favor, or feel like you're drawing near to God, stop. Sit back. Close your eyes. Take a deep breath. Remember He is there with you right now, not because of anything you have done, but because of everything He has done. Rest in that. Thank Him for that. Be transformed because of that.

Second, in that posture of grateful freedom and rest seek to draw nearer to Him through the continued practice of hearing from Him through the study of His Word. Go at the study of God's Word in the same diligence you found in this study. The length of what you read and study may be different, it may be a book, a chapter, it may only be a verse, but whatever you study do it daily. Look to the passage and ask yourself: what does this passage mean? What is God saying to me with this? How can I apply this to my walk with Jesus? Take time to read different bible translations and commentaries to better understand the context or meaning of the passage, and seek to be transformed by it like you have been through your study of Galatians.

Finally, seek to live it out. We live for Jesus, not to earn favor with Jesus, but because His grace is so great we want to look just like Him. The rhythms of grace you hopefully experienced during this study can be lived out daily as you seek to live like Him more and more. If during these six weeks you found yourself studying the Word daily- continue that. If you found yourself plugging into community weekly to discuss His Word and the impact it has on your life- find that again. If you grew closer to Jesus during this time- don't stray away. The work God's Word began in you over these past six weeks are just the beginning if you don't lose sight of Him after it. In all things of your life rest in His grace, find community that will help you continue to do that, and grow in your love for Him and His people. This is the message of Galatians and this is the mission for our lives.

-Van Riggins Spiritual Formations Pastor