

Crucified with Christ

Lesson Seven: We Will Reap

Galatians 5:25-6:10

1. What exhortation does Paul voice in Galatians 5:25? What does this mean? According to Galatians 5:26, what is the opposite? How does this relate to the previous discussion? Galatians 5:16 may prove useful.
2. What situation does Paul describe in Galatians 6:1? What should our goal be in this situation? How should we pursue this goal? What concern do we need to have as we do this? What similar idea is expressed in Galatians 6:2? What is the connection between these two ideas?
3. What observation does Paul make in Galatians 6:3? How does this relate to the discussion of Galatians 5:25-6:2?
4. According to Galatians 6:4, instead of picking apart the behavior of others, what should we do? What could happen if we do? Will this actually happen? What further warning does Paul give us in Galatians 6:5? What is this talking about?
5. What command does Paul give in Galatians 6:6? How do we need to apply this?

One Another's Burdens

God loves to present truth through paradox and contrast. The most glorious man ever to live came to earth not as the pampered child of a king, but as the son of a carpenter. He chose to send His message to the world not through philosophers and wise men, but through fishermen and tax collectors. As we hear this message and obey it, we learn that dying to ourselves is the only way to live.

We see another such paradox presented in the early part of Galatians 6. Although each one of us must bear our own load (and give account for the way we bore it), we are still commanded to bear the burdens of our brethren. This is one of the defining tensions of Christianity. Our faith is at once strikingly individualistic, yet strikingly communal. There will be no group admissions into heaven. Each one of us will be judged for the things that we have done, without reference to the excuses provided by the conduct of others.

However, until that point, we're all in this together as Christians. Like any other sheep, we find safety and comfort in numbers. We can only remain faithful through the support and encouragement we offer one another, and if we are so foolish as to separate ourselves from the flock, Satan and his wolves will quickly close in around us.

When we put these two ideas together, though, it teaches us something critically important about our lives. Our brethren need us, and we should do everything we can to help them, whether that help be physical or spiritual. However, we can't stand in for them on the day of judgment, nor they for us. We hold only our own lives in our hands, and no one else's. Sometimes, we can't save others. However, it is always in our power to save ourselves.

6. What basic principle does Paul state in Galatians 6:7? Why is this true? What two applications does Paul make from this in Galatians 6:8? How can we work on sowing to the spirit, not the flesh?

7. What does Paul exhort us to do in Galatians 6:9? Why? Because of this, what action does Galatians 6:10 press upon us? Who should our especial target be? Who is the doer in this verse? Who is not the doer? Why is this important?

Galatians 6:11-18

1. To what does Paul draw the attentions of the Galatians in Galatians 6:11? What does this mean? Why is it significant? Romans 6:22 and 2 Thessalonians 3:17 may help you answer.

2. What people are under discussion in Galatians 6:12? What are they attempting to do? Why? What is this talking about?

3. Who is Paul talking about in Galatians 6:13? What do they not do? Why is this strange? What do they want to see the Galatians do regardless? Why? What's really going on here?

4. In contrast to the behavior of the circumcised, what does Paul say he never wants to do in Galatians 6:14? What exception does he make to this? Why? What does he mean by this?

5. What statement does Paul make in Galatians 6:15? Has Paul made a similar statement before? If so, where? In context, what does he want to tell us by this statement here?

6. Who is under discussion in Galatians 6:16? What is "this rule"? What blessing does Paul pronounce upon them? Whom else does he bless here? What is this group?

7. What warning does Paul give in Galatians 6:17? Why? What's he talking about? Passages like Acts 14:19 may shed some light on the subject.