

GALATIANS 6

Fulfilling the Law of Messiah and Boasting in the Cross of Messiah

Fulfilling the Law of Messiah¹

1 Brothers and sisters, even if anyone is caught (προλαμβάνω) in some wrongdoing (παράπτωμα), you who are spiritual,² restore (καταρτίζω)³ such a one in a spirit of gentleness,⁴ each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.⁵ 2 Bear one another's burdens (τὰ βάρη),⁶ and thereby fulfill the law of Messiah.⁷ 3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But each one must examine⁸ his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another.⁹ 5 For each one will bear his own load (φορτίον).¹⁰

6 The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him. 7 Do not be deceived. God is not mocked. For whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. 9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. 10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to

¹ "A believer is free from the Law of Moses and possesses liberty in the Spirit, but he must fulfill the law of Christ, and this can be done in the power of the Spirit. Such a life involves sacrificial service directed toward sinning Christians, burdened Christians, the pastor-teachers, and all people" (Donald K. Campbell, *BKC*, 2:609).

² **Ga 5:16** 16 But I say walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. **1 Co 2:15** 15 He who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. **Heb 5:14** 14 Solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

³ This word is used in secular Greek for setting broken bones and in the NT for mending fishing nets (Campbell, *BKC*, 2:609).

⁴ **Ga 5:23** 23 ...[G]entleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

⁵ **1 Co 10:12** 12 Let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

⁶ "While the 'spiritual' do the work of restoring, all believers are to become involved by prayer and encouragement" (Campbell, *BKC*, 2:609).

⁷ **Ga 5:14** 14 The whole [Mosaic] law is fulfilled in one statement, in the: You will love your neighbor as yourself. **Jn 13:34** 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

⁸ **1 Pe 1:7** 7 ...So that the proof of your faith, more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Messiah.

⁹ **Ro 12:3** 3 I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

¹⁰ The reference in v. 2 is to heavy, crushing, loads (τὰ βάρη), more than a man could carry without help. Here a different Greek word (φορτίον) is used to designate the pack usually carried by a marching soldier (Campbell, *BKC*, 2:610). **Mt 11:30** 30 My yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

all people [believers and unbelievers], and especially to those who are of the household of the faith [believers].

Boasting in the Cross of Messiah

11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. 12 Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh try to compel you to be circumcised, simply so that they will not be persecuted¹¹ for the cross of Messiah. 13 For those who are circumcised do not even keep the [Mosaic] law themselves, but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh. 14 But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Messiah, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. 16 And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

¹¹ **1 Th 2:14-16** 14 You, brothers and sisters, became imitators of the churches of God in Messiah Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews, 15 who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all people, 16 hindering us from speaking to the nations so that they may be saved, with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them to the utmost.

Biblical Theology

1. Sanctification.

- a. We must not compare ourselves with others but step back and take an objective look at ourselves (Ga 6:4).¹²

¹² Campbell, *BKC*, 2:609.

Discussion Questions

1. Review.

- a. What are the chapter themes of Ga 1-5?
- b. What are the section themes of Ga 5?
- c. Why is Paul writing Galatians?

2. Galatians 6.

- a. Into how many sections should Ga 6 be divided?
- b. What are the section themes (p. 104, 2)?
- c. What is the chapter theme of Ga 6?
- d. What stood out to you from Ga 6?
- e. How does Ga 6 relate to Ga 5 (p. 104, 1)?
- f. How does Ga 5-6 relate to Ga 1-4?
- g. What are the key words of Ga 6?

3. Galatians 6:1-5.

- a. How many times is “anyone, one another, each one, or one” found in these verses? What does that tell us about the Christian life?
- b. Explain Paul’s instructions in vv. 1-5 (p. 105, 3).
- c. What does Paul mean by “you who are spiritual”?
- d. What does “restore” mean (p. 105, 4).
- e. Please share a time you were on the giving or receiving end of the type of restoration described in v. 1.
- f. Read Ga 2:16-19. What is the difference between the law of Moses and the law of Messiah? If it is impossible to keep the Mosaic law, how can we fulfill the law of Messiah (p. 106-07, 7a)?
- g. What other biblical passages support what Paul is saying in v. 2?
- h. Would anyone like to give an example of how they fulfilled the law of Messiah this past week?
- i. According to vv. 3-5, how do you know whether we are doing a good job as a Christian?
- j. Verse 3 says that we are to bear one another’s burdens, but v. 5 says each one will bear his own load. Is Paul contradicting himself (p. 106, 6c)?

4. Galatians 6:6-10.

- a. What is a concrete application of v. 6? Before the Lord, are you giving enough to your local church? Would you consider a monthly or one-time donation to Firm Foundation New Zealand?
- b. Would anyone like to share what they learned from the cross references to v. 6 (p. 108, 2c)?

- c. How do vv. 7-8 relate to Ga 5? How do we know whether we are sowing to the flesh or sowing to the Spirit? What are the results of sowing to the flesh and sowing to the Spirit?
- d. According to vv. 9-10, for whom should we do good works? Why should we do them? When we are growing weary, what should we call to mind?
- e. Would anyone like to share what they learned from the cross references to v. 10 (p. 110, 5).
- f. What good works is God calling you to do this next week?

5. Galatians 6:11-18.

- a. Why does Paul write in large letters to the Galatians with his own hand?
- b. Do any of the things Paul writes in these final verses remind you of anything he has already said in his letter (p. 111, 2)?
- c. From vv. 12-13, what do we learn about the Jewish legalists who are leading the Galatians astray? What is their motivation? Do you think they are believers in Jesus?
- d. How does the boast of the Jewish legalists compare to the boast of Paul?
- e. Why is the cross of Messiah so important to Paul?
- f. How does boasting in the cross impact the flesh (p. 112, 3b)?
- g. What does Paul mean when he says, “the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world”?
- h. What is the “new creation” Paul refers to in v. 15?
- i. How does Php 3:2-11 compare with Ga 6:15-17 (p. 112, 4b)?
- j. How do we “walk by this rule” and so receive God’s peace and mercy (v. 16)?
- k. Who does “the Israel of God” refer to (v. 16)(p. 113, 6)?
- l. What are “the brand-marks of Jesus” and why does Paul mention them at the end of his letter (v. 17)(p. 113-14, 7)? Have you received “brand-marks” on account of your service to the Lord Jesus Christ?
- m. Take a careful look at the final verse (v. 18). How is this an appropriate way for Paul to say farewell to the Galatians?

6. Galatians 6.

- a. Into how many sections should Ga 6 be divided?
- b. What are the section themes?
- c. What is the chapter theme of Ga 6?
- d. What is a principle from Ga 6 that you will apply to your life this week?

7. Galatians.

- a. Take out your “Galatians at a Glance” chart. What is the book theme? Who is the author? What is the date? What is the purpose? What is the historical setting? What are the key words? What are the chapter themes? What are the segment divisions?
- b. What can we use from each chapter to disciple a baby believer (p. 115-16, 2)?

Notes