

Exegetical Notes – Galatians 6:1-10

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Galatians 6:1-10

Verses 1-2

¹ Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

- “If someone is caught in a sin” ... This means that someone is caught “gratifying the desires of the sinful nature” (see Galatians 5:16-21). “Caught” means that there is no doubt they have done the thing in question. This is not a suspicion, but a fact.
- “You who live by the Spirit” (see Galatians 5:22-26).
- “Restore that person gently.” The loving thing to do for that person is to restore them, not expose them. The key word is “gently.”
- “But watch yourselves.” There are two warnings here. 1: Be careful not to act in an unloving way to the one who is caught. 2. Be careful not to fall into the sinful behavior that caught the person you are trying to help. To do either of these things is more harmful than good.
- Carrying each other when we fall, and we ALL fall into sin, fulfills the law of Christ to love each other.

Verses 3-6

³ If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. ⁴ Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, ⁵ for each one should carry their own load. ⁶ Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor.

- Be careful not to think too highly of yourself. We are ALL sinners. We have all fallen short. If we think that we are beyond sinning, we are self-deceived.
- We must all test our own behaviors constantly.
- We should take pride in ourselves by being careful to follow God's word. We should not think we are better than we are because we are better than someone else.
- In checking our own walk, we carry our own load. We will not need to burden another with correcting us.
- The one who is taught the word of God should be eager to share what he has with the one who instructs him in the word of God.

Verses 7-8

⁷ Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸ Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

- You cannot fool God. If you are seeking to gratify the flesh, He knows. If you live to please the Spirit, He knows. If you live to gratify the desires of the flesh, you will not be blessed. If you live to please the Holy Spirit, you will be saved.

Verses 9-10

⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

- Those who live by the Spirit will seek to help others in every way. In so doing, the persons they seek to help will be blessed and so will be the one who seeks to help someone else. Therefore, those who walk by the Spirit should always be looking for opportunities to help others.
- This desire to help others extends to ALL people, those in Christ and those who do not know Christ. Christians should always be looking for ways to help other Christians. But they should seek to be a blessing to non-Christians as well.

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