

We have come to the last chapter of Paul's letter to the church at Galatia. Let's back up and add Galatians 5:24-26 to our study this week. Even though we looked at it last week I believe it flows right into Paul's thoughts in chapter 6. Remember the chapter divisions were added much later. Read this section of scripture a couple of times to become familiar with it. Pray and ask God to open your eyes to what He desires to show you.

1. Underline who the apostle Paul is speaking to in this section of scripture? Vs.24
2. What choice have they made?
3. If you are a follower of Christ what choice did you have to make at some point?
4. Look up the word "crucified" in the Greek and write brief definition.
5. Have you crucified your sinful nature?
6. Does this mean you will never sin again? Read Romans 7 then answer.
7. Do you still have the capacity to sin?
8. What do we have as a child of God that we did not have before salvation that would enable us to break free of sins power over us? 1Jn.4:4
9. What must we do in order to successfully follow Christ? Vs 25
10. In verse 26 Paul address the sinful attitudes and actions that so easily arise and cause problems. What sinful attitudes lead to our conceit?
11. When we allow these sinful attitudes what does vs.26 say comes next?

In the Greek the word "provoke" is *Prokaleomai* to challenge to a combat or contest with one, to irritate

12. Do you think this was a problem that the Galatians had seen before? Read Gal.5:15
13. Is conceit, pride, arrogance or self-glorying a problem in the body of believers still today or have we risen above this sort of behavior?
14. Do believers in the church family irritate or become jealous of one another?

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit the apostle John wrote 3 John 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

15. How do you feel when you see your children playing kindly and patiently working together?

In chapter 6 Paul addresses the problem of a brother or sister in Christ caught in a sin. Some might ask why it is even any of our business what others are doing.

16. Read Romans 12:4-5 now write out why it is important that we deal with sin in the body of Christ.
17. Compare the body of Christ to your own body, how do you deal with an infection? What happens if you do not deal with it?
18. What is the key to dealing with sin in the body of Christ?
19. What is our intended purpose as stated by Paul in verse 1?
20. What is the warning Paul gives to them?
21. Why do you suppose he gives this warning?
22. Now that our brother or sister has been restored is that the end? Paul goes on in verse 2 and instructs believers to _____.

Often the temptation that they have given in to in the past will come at them again; in what way can we come along side a person and help them carry their burden? W.W.J.D.? (What would Jesus do)

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I love to read Phillip Keller's book A shepherd looks at Ps.23 every year in January. This book helps me see how the Good Shepherd cares for his sheep so I can show this kind of care to others.

- If you are not being mentored by someone, why not find someone whose spiritual walk is one you can watch and ask them to mentor you for 3-6 months.
- If you do not have an accountability partner you might consider getting one. Someone who you feel comfortable with, someone you will listen to; one who will speak honestly and according to God's word to you.
- If you have been mentored by someone for awhile; why not find someone you can mentor and give them the gift of a friend who will walk with them?

23. Verses 4-5 are like a mirror held up for believers; who are we to compare ourselves with?

If we strive to do our best for Christ in all we do what will be the result? Reason this out.

24. What is Paul asking them to see as they look behind their actions? _____.

25. As followers of Christ what is my first responsibility? _____.

26. Our boasting should never be about self; it should be what _____ has done in my heart and life.

Ps. 34:1-3 I will praise the Lord at all times; His praise will always be on my lips. **2** I will boast in the Lord; the humble will hear and be glad. **3** Proclaim with me the Lord's greatness; let us exalt His name together.

27. Verse 5 may seem to contradict verse 2; that is why looking up key words is so important. Look up the word for burden in these two verses. Write a brief definition.

Verse 2

Verse 5

Jesus used the same word that is used in Gal.5:5 in Matthew 11:30 "For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

28. You may need to ponder verse 6 for a few minutes in order to truly understand what the Apostle Paul is saying. Keep the scripture in context. What has Paul been talking about so far in this chapter?

29. Mutual fellowship around God's word is the point of verse 6. What are we to do with the truth revealed to us by our time in the Word? Underline the word in verse 6 that shows what we are to do.

30. Look up the word "things" write a brief definition. The N.T. translates several words as "things." How does this verse fit with the idea of restoring a fallen brother or sister in Christ?

31. What is the law that Paul shares in verses 7-8? (Every farmer is well aware of this law.)

Many years ago a preacher, R.G.Lee, preached a sermon "Payday Someday." It was based on the story from 1 Kings 21 of King Ahab, Queen Jezebel and Naboth's vineyard. King Ahab was very rich but not satisfied with what he owned he wanted more. He pouted on his bed over the fact that Naboth would not sell his vineyard to him. So wicked Queen Jezebel had Naboth and his sons killed and gave the land to Ahab with pride. Elijah, the prophet of God, met Ahab in the vineyard to declare to him that he would pay for this act and so would Jezebel. It came true just as the man of God said it would.

Nothing is done in complete secret. Numbers 32:23 "...be sure your sin will find you out."

This was an example of one who sows to please his sinful nature and reaped destruction.

The book of Ruth was a beautiful story of one who sowed to please the Spirit and reaped eternal life. I do not have room to go into the story of Ruth but it is well worth the time it takes to read the four chapters of this Moabite woman who became the grandmother of King David; the greatest king of Israel. She is also mentioned in the lineage of Christ; Matthew 1:5.

God is not mocked the scripture says; he is the creator of this principle. It will always follow God's plan.

32. What kind of a harvest are you preparing?

A friend of mine sent me an email today telling of a man who had complications after a surgery in which he nearly died. As he lay in the hospital bed he prayed and asked God to restore his health so that the next time he would find himself at the point of death he would have done something for the kingdom of God. When he recovered he told his wife of the conversation he had with God and the promise he had made. They marked their calendar with a date 6 months farther down the year that would be his last day at work. After that he would begin working for God. He had lunch with a friend that day. The friend knew nothing about the decision he had made but was working on a project to get water to villages in Africa that had none. He asked him if he could help him figure out how to make a pump for the people that would be simple and easy to fix if it broke. The man said "of course I can, I will start first thing in the morning." "No, I don't expect you to drop everything," his friend said, "just help in your spare time." The man told him it was his last day of work that day. God had plans for this man and he was available. The two men worked together and in a short time had taken the pump from over 100 different parts to simply a hand full. The hand pump the United Nations uses all over the world costs \$1000 - \$3000. Their pump is made out of all PVC and is universal in its few parts. They are testing their new hand pump and getting ready to send enough of them to establish 2000 wells. These men are sowing seeds for a harvest of God's blessing.

33. All believers have windows of opportunity given by God. In verse 10 what is Paul's encouragement to us?

34. Are you ready? Are you watching? Are you listening for the voice of God that will lead you to your opportunity?

35. He extends to them peace and mercy to all who follow this rule. What is the rule? Rom.8:1-6 I looked up the word "rule" it is *Kanon* in the Greek and it means fixed space within the limits of which one's power of influence is confined.

36. Look up and define: peace and mercy.

37. How has this chapter spoken to you concerning your walk of faith?