

# **GALATIANS**

## **Chapters One to Six**

**Notes to use as you study through  
the Book of Galatians, enabling you to receive  
wonderful wisdom and revelation.**

**Paul Galligan  
Revival Ministries Australia**

# REVIVAL MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA

## an apostolic ministry to the nations

### Publication Policy

RMA advises that all of our teaching and study materials are copyrighted. However, they are offered to the Body of Christ in obedience to the LORD's command to make disciples "*teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you,*" Matt. 28:20.

Therefore **they may be copied and distributed for teaching purposes, not for profit.**

All Scripture quotations are from the **New King James Version** [NKJV]  
© 1979, 1980,1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

© **Revival Ministries Australia, April 2024**

Revival Ministries Australia, PO Box. 2718, TOOWOOMBA Q.4350,  
Ph. +617 46130633  
Location address: SHILOH Centre, 19 Russell St. Toowoomba,  
AUSTRALIA

All manuals & books, teaching newsletters & tracts are available on RMA website, some of the material is available in Spanish and also in Swahili language.

Find links to Spreaker for recorded teachings and music CDs & YouTube for DVDs of teachings. Some of the teachings on both sites are bi-lingual – Spanish/English

Email: [rma@revivalministries.org.au](mailto:rma@revivalministries.org.au)  
Website: [www.revivalministries.org.au](http://www.revivalministries.org.au)

# Contents

	Page
Galatians Chapter 1 .....	5
Galatians Chapter 2 .....	8
Galatians Chapter 3 .....	11
Galatians Chapter 4 .....	15
Galatians Chapter 5 .....	19
Galatians Chapter 6 .....	23

***Note: these studies in Galatians were presented at  
Shiloh Training School January 2024,***

***We present these notes to you, to enable you to study the  
book of Galatians more diligently, receiving “the spirit of  
wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.”  
[Eph.1:17-19]***



# **GALATIANS**

## **Chapter One**

### **Appointed by God**

**Galatians 1:1** “*Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father ...)*”

- Paul knew his appointment as an apostle was from God not from man.
- He was not ashamed to call himself an ‘apostle’ – a sent one, one who goes on a particular mission.
- Paul was appointed as an apostle by ‘**Jesus Christ and God the Father**’ (**Colossians 2:2** – this is the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ)
- This is made possible through of the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

### **A letter written to the churches in a region**

**v.2** – Paul is writing with ‘all the brethren’ – there are brethren with him

- This letter is to the churches in the **region of Galatia**  
➔ which include: *Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, Antioch*

### **Paul ministers ‘Grace and Peace’**

**v.3** – Grace and peace is from “*God, Father of us and Lord Jesus Christ*” (this is the literal translation)

- again, **God the Father** and **Lord Jesus Christ** are mentioned together – this is the mystery of God!
  - God is Father,
  - and God is the Lord Jesus Christ

### **Paul’s reminder of what Jesus has done**

**v.4** – Jesus gave Himself for our sins in order to deliver us from this present evil age

- God wants us to be delivered – it is His will
- not just delivered from hell to come but delivered from this present age!

**v.5** - all the glory goes to Him

## **There is only one Gospel**

**Galatians 1:6** – The Galatians were turning away from the realm of the kingdom of heaven; they were returning back to a different gospel

- turning away from the grace of Christ

**v.7** - **there is no other gospel!**

- but there are people perverting the gospel of Jesus Christ and are troubling the believers in Galatia.

## **Those who preach a false gospel are cursed**

**v.8** – *“even if we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel”* – these ones are to be accursed

- Joseph Smith spoke of an angel that brought another message – Mormonism was the result [Church of the Latter Day Saints].
- Mohammed also had ‘revelations’ from an angel in writing the Qu’ran.
- Jehovah Witness are another example of the gospel being perverted and false doctrine spread to the nations.
- **False doctrine brings confusion and perversion.**

**v.9** – If anybody preaches *“any other gospel than what you have received”*, they are to be accursed – this is serious stuff!

- if we preach false doctrine, we bring a curse on ourselves, and those who hear us.

**v.10** – Paul is saying, *“Why am I in trouble?”*

- it is because he will not agree with this ‘other gospel’
- he made enemies because he is standing for the truth of the gospel
- anyone of us can decide to be a bondservant of Christ – a willing slave, a ‘love slave’.

## **The Gospel is made know through revelation**

**v.11** – the gospel preached by Paul was not according to man

- you will probably not hear this Gospel at a Bible school.

**v.12** – Paul’s gospel came through the revelation of Jesus Christ

- this gospel is only known by revelation.

**Galatians 1:13-14** – Paul was an enemy of the church when he was practicing Judaism; he was persecuting the church & trying to destroy it.

- he rose in the ranks of being a well-indoctrinated Pharisee
- his zeal propelled him – he thought he was doing good by persecuting the church

### **Paul realised he had been called**

**v.15-17** – the calling was from his birth, even from his mother’s womb.

- we are called (no matter what happened from our infancy to when we were born again)
- the calling is through grace
- we are called to have God’s Son revealed in us – *“His Son revealed in me”*.
- this is so we can preach Him, preach Christ, the One who is being revealed in us
- When Paul received this revelation, he did not confer with men straight away.

### **Now the glory of God could be seen in Paul**

**v.18-21** – this is Paul’s personal history as a saved man

- he did go up to see the apostles in Jerusalem after three years
- he saw Peter, and James, the Lord’s brother who was one of the apostles – not one of the ‘twelve’.

**v.22-24** – the saints in Judea had not met Paul but were happy to hear that he was a follower of Christ himself, even though he was formerly trying to destroy the church

- God was being glorified in him
- The saints in the churches in Judea could see that God was in Paul!

# GALATIANS

## Chapter Two

### **Paul goes up to Jerusalem**

**Galatians 2:1-3** – after 14 years, Paul went up to Jerusalem.

- He took two others with him on team:
  - ➔ Barnabas – who was an apostle
  - ➔ Titus – who was a Greek
- Paul went up to Jerusalem *“by revelation”* – he knew God wanted him to go
- Paul was prepared to take risks – submitting his gospel to the apostles in Jerusalem
- He went up *“privately to those who were of reputation”* – and he shared with them *“that gospel which I preach”*

### **Beware of ‘Judaizers’**

- it was risky to take Titus, a Greek, to Jerusalem – this was a brave thing to do, going into the heart of Judaism
  - beware of those who want you to ‘conform’ because of a religious expectation!
- v.4-6 – brethren were brought in to secretly spy on them – Judaizers
- ‘Religion’ brings us into bondage
  - Paul had a strong attitude to not yield in any way to religion so that *“the truth of the gospel might continue”* with them

### **God shows no favouritism**

- God shows no personal favouritism to any man
- the apostles in Jerusalem did not add anything to the gospel that Paul preached

### **Paul’s apostleship was to the Gentiles [Nations]**

v.7-8 – Paul declares his apostleship that had begun in **Acts 13:1-2**, was primarily to the Gentiles; this was his ‘sphere of ministry’

- *apostleship = the commission*
- Peter’s apostleship was primarily to the circumcised (Jews)
- Paul’s apostleship was to all the ethnic groups (nations)
- the “apostleship” was the specific sphere of apostolic ministry and responsibility.



## **Our apostolic sphere**

- our own sphere has grown as we continue in the ministry to include parts of Asia/sub-Continent, Africa, the Americas (North and South) as well as Australia
- Jesus said in the ‘Great Commission’ in **Matthew 28:19** we are to **“make disciples of all the nations”**.
- Our sphere has been ever-increasing.

## **There is grace available**

**Galatians 2:9** - the three pillars (James, Cephas/Peter and John), the main leaders of the ‘church’ in Jerusalem

- **“perceived the grace”** that was on Paul – grace can be seen!
- and gave them **“the right hand of fellowship”**, they were now in fellowship, there was agreement, and approval

[it is interesting that there were ‘three’; when Jesus had twelve disciples there was still an inner three – even after the murder of the original James, it seems he is replaced with another James, the brother of the Lord]

## **Remember the poor**

**v.10** – They were eager to look after the poor

- Paul took up offerings from the churches among the Gentiles to help the Jewish believers

## **Do not compromise**

**v.11-12** – the Jewish religion and tradition was very strong

- even the great apostle Peter came under ‘bondage’ again, fearing those who were of the circumcision – peer pressure
- Paul was not afraid to address the situation
- He withstood Peter face to face publicly over this issue
- We must be straight-forward about **the truth of the gospel**
- No one is to be excluded

## **Beware of ‘peer-pressure’**

**v.13** – even Barnabas got caught in the leaven of hypocrisy

- Beware the leaven of the Pharisees/religion and peer pressure!

**v.14** - Paul was defending the gospel he preached – **“the truth of the gospel”**

## **Justification is by faith in Jesus Christ**

**Galatians 2:15-16** – Gentiles were considered ‘*sinners*’ by nature of being Gentiles

➤ **justification/forgiveness can only come through Jesus Christ**

- Jewish religion is anathema – to be avoided as it disturbs us from entering into the reality of forgiveness of sins through faith in Jesus Christ
- justification is not through circumcision or the law

**v.17** – justification cannot come any other way

- the Jews needed to find out that Judaism could not save them,
- it is actually sinful to look at Judaism as a means to justification – that needs to be repented of.

### **Do not go back to the old**

**v.18-19** – Do not go back to religion again - Christ has come and our faith is in Him for justification

- Do not go back to Judaism or any other legalistic practice because justification is by faith in Jesus!
- We need to die to religious practice in order to live for God

### **Christ now lives in us!**

**v.20** – We have been **crucified with Christ**; *“it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me...”*

- we live by *“the faith of the Son of God”* is more correct than by *“faith in the Son of God”* – we actually **live by His faith**
- ‘my faith’ does not compare to ‘His faith’

### **Made real through our baptism**

- this becomes real through our baptism (**Romans 6:3-6**) – we are crucified with Christ!
- not only did Jesus die for us but we also died with Him and now we live by His faith, by the faith of the One living in us!

**v.21** – Christ’s death means nothing if justification is by the law

- Let us receive the grace that God has made available through the death and resurrection of Christ!

# GALATIANS

## Chapter Three

### **Beware of false doctrine**

**Galatians 3:1** – Paul is lamenting that the Galatians had been bewitched by religious Judaizers – witchcraft

- This is a very serious situation, showing us that even the church can come under the power of witchcraft.
- They were no longer obeying the truth of the Gospel that they had received; the centrality of Jesus Christ.
- Beware - false doctrine has spiritual power!

### **Justification is by faith**

**v.2** – How do we receive the Spirit? It is only by faith!

**v.3** – It is not possible to be *“made perfect”* by the flesh.

**v.4** – *“Have you suffered so many things in vain”*

- We all have a past in God
- So many wonderful memories – but also many challenges, opposition, disappointments etc.
- Do not let the things you have suffered take you away from the truth of the Gospel you have received.

**v.5** – It is God who *“supplies the Spirit to you”*

- He works miracles among us (**Heb.2:4**)
- It is by the **‘hearing of faith’**

### **Those of faith are sons of Abraham**

**v.6** – *“Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness”*.

- Faith/believing in God was accounted as righteousness.

**v.7** – **IMPORTANT** - Only those of FAITH are sons of Abraham.

### **All nations to be blessed through Abraham**

**v.8-9** – The Scripture [the word of God] spoke and even preached the gospel to Abraham, *“In you all the nations shall be blessed”*.

- *‘forseeing’* speaks of prophetic insight

- Most choose to ignore this clear statement of the gospel, that the Gospel is for all nations, through Abraham; it is by faith.
- GOD justifies the Gentiles by faith
- GOD preached the Gospel to Abraham beforehand.
- ***“So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham”*** - this is the gospel!
- Those of faith will be blessed.
- This is the key to understanding the gospel and its spread throughout all the nations.

## **Trying to keep the ‘law’ brings a curse**

**Galatians 3:10-12** – trying to keep the law in the flesh leaves you under a curse

- Trying to be right with God by keeping the law will put you under a curse, a curse of condemnation
- No one can be justified by the law, but the ***“just shall live by faith”*** (**Habakkuk 2:4**)
- **The law is not of faith**, because you have to keep everything of it in your own strength.

## **But Christ has redeemed us!**

**v.13-14** – ***“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law”***

- Jesus became the curse for us because it is written ***“cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”***.
- **He became the curse for us** so that we can receive the blessing of Abraham.
- The blessing of Abraham might come upon the nations in Christ Jesus, receiving the promise of the Spirit through faith.
- The blessing of Abraham is ***“the promise of the Spirit through faith”*** – by the Spirit coming into our lives, all the promises of God will come to fulfilment to the glory of God through us.

## **A covenant cannot be broken**

**v.15** - covenants cannot be changed.

**v.16-17** – There is one Body of Christ; Christ is the Seed; we are of the Promised Seed

- the Seed of Abraham is singular, not plural [‘Seed’ can be singular or plural] - **Christ is the one Seed**
- if we belong to Christ, **we are the Seed [plural] of Abraham** – we are members of the Seed.
- covenants were extremely binding, unchangeable.
- God’s covenant with Abraham was given 430 years before the law and the Law Covenant.

**Galatians 3:18** – the promise is by faith, not of law

## **The Purpose of the Law**

- The law is the instruction; it brought awareness of sin,
- The law was a teacher/tutor to bring us to Christ

**v.19** – the law was added because of transgressions till the Seed, Christ, came.

- The law works as an addition to our conscience, restraining man from sinning
- Possibly Moses is the mediator, angels helping him - but this is hard to understand
- The law was there to restrain man till Christ came.

**v.20-22** – The law could never save and change lives, nor produce righteousness.

- The law caused us to look forward to something, to a salvation, to righteousness.
- Faith came when Jesus came; now we can be justified by faith in Christ.

**v.23-25** – before Christ came, we were ***“kept under guard by the law”***

- But now we are no longer under the tutor – because faith has come
- We now live by faith in Christ Jesus

## **All sons of God through faith**

**v.26-27** – Now we are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus – the inheritor of the promises

- When we are baptised into Christ we become sons, we put on Christ
- Baptism is not just a sign but a transitional reality that we are now part of His body (**1 Cor.12:13**)

- We are now able to inherit as sons, placed into sonship, and have put on, or been clothed with, Christ.
- now we are living in a whole new reality!

## **All one in Christ**

### **Galatians 3:28 – there is now:**

- neither Jew nor Greek – racial division is gone in Christ
- neither slave nor free – social and monetary status division is gone in Christ
- neither male or female – gender division is gone in Christ [no enmity between male and female]. **Joel 2:28** – both sons and daughters receive the Holy Spirit and prophesy.

**→ we are all one in Christ.**

**v.29 – “If we are of Christ, then we are Abraham’s Seed, and heirs according to the promise”.**

- We are now heirs of the promises to Abraham!
- All the promises to Abraham now belong to anyone who is of Christ, whatever background we come from.

# GALATIANS

## Chapter Four

### **Heirs according to the promise**

In verse 29 of Chapter Three we learned that if we are of Christ then we are “*Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise*”.

**Chapter 4:1** is now speaking to the ones appointed to be heirs: “*Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all*”.

- speaking of a child of God, who is an heir because he is of the seed of Abraham.
- the heir is just like a slave while he is young because they are too young to inherit.
- there is an age to receive the inheritance.

### **Children are under ‘guardians and stewards’**

**v.2** – the heir, while still a child is under “*guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father*”.

- a child cannot receive the inheritance
- but there is an appointed time to receive the inheritance.

**v.3** – children are ‘in bondage’ – being totally under the authority of someone else, and subject to the ‘*elements of the world*’.

- ‘elements of the world’ – these are ‘rudiments, principles’ and in this context these are negative.

### **Redeemed so we could become sons**

**v.4** – But in the “*fullness of the time*”, “*God sent forth His Son*” ... there was an appointed time for the Son to manifest!

**v.5** – Jesus came that we might become sons! We were redeemed, not so we would go to heaven, but that we “*might receive the adoption as sons*”.

**v.6** – “*because you are sons*” – a babe has to grow up.

- Once you have grown up, then we come into the placement of the son,
- We receive “*the Spirit of His Son*” and can cry out “*Abba Father*”!

## **Galatians 4:7** – What does it mean to be an *“heir of God”*?

- This is the one who has an inheritance.
- The son is now able to receive from the Father that portion that He has stored up for him.
- We need to come to the revelation that ‘I am a son’ [male & female].
- Come home to Father’s house and become secure. The Spirit of the Father comes inside of us and begins to lead us (**Rom.8:14**).

## **Before knowing God, they served other gods**

**v.8** – now Paul is referring back to before, when they were unsaved.

- before they knew God, they used to serve other gods

**v.9** – But now they have come to know God, and they are known by God.

- Before we knew God, we were known by God!
- But in spite of that, they are turning back to the *‘weak and beggarly elements’* which bring bondage.
- these can be evil spirits who enslave and condemn.

**v.10-11** – when people turn from God, they make up their own religion.

- *“Observe days and months and seasons and years”*.
- Paul is *‘afraid’* for these people; it seems they are turning away from all that he has taught them.

## **Paul is appealing to the Galatians**

**v.12** – Paul is urging them to come out of where they are.

- *“I urge you to become like me”*.

**v.13-14** – it seems Paul was carrying a serious physical problem in his life at this time.

- Even with a *“physical infirmity”* Paul continued to preach the gospel.
- Paul was received as *“an angel of God”* [an ‘angel’ is a ‘messenger from God’].

**v.15** – we don’t see much of this sort of commitment in the church today.

- in that early church Paul’s relationship with the believers was heartfelt. It was a real and loving relationship.
- Paul was received for the ‘gift’ in him, and they loved him.



## Preach the truth of the Word

**Galatians 4:16** – Paul was not afraid to preach the truth: *“Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?”*

v.17 – there are others who want to draw the Galatians away from the truth.

v.18 – the truth will challenge the religious mindset.

- We need to be zealous for the truth

## A heart to see Christ formed in the brethren

v.19 – Paul had this mindset to see Christ *“formed”* in the brethren

- ‘formed’ – *speaks of a change in character, becoming conformed to the character of Christ in actuality, not merely in semblance.*
- Paul uses the language of ‘childbirth’ – travailing prayer; intercession; longsuffering is involved
- primary allegiance is to Christ not to a denomination.
- Paul never gave up on the churches.

v.20 – Paul expresses his concerns about these brethren.

## There were two covenants

v.21 – righteousness can never be received through the law.

- Righteousness is by faith in Jesus Christ (**Phil.3:9**)

v.22-23 – *“Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman”*.

- One son was according to the flesh
- One son was according to the promise

v.24-26 – speaks of *“two covenants”*

- Hagar = Mt Sinai = in bondage to religion = Jerusalem that now is.
- The Jerusalem above is free = the born-again people of God and is *“the mother of us all”* – this is Mt Zion, the city of the living God (**Heb.12:22**). **Revelation 21** – speaks of the new Jerusalem

v.27 – a quote from **Isaiah 54:1** – showing that the new covenant will be very fruitful *“many more children”*

## **We are the children of Promise**

**Galatians 3:28** – *“Now we brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise”*.

- This promise is for us!

**v.29** – But be warned that the children of the flesh will always persecute the children of promise.

- Those who want to adhere to the ‘law’ and to ‘religion’ will persecute those who walk in the freedom that comes to sons.
- Paul is linking the ‘flesh’ to religion, being justified by our own effort. Don’t get caught in religion.

## **The Inheritance is for Sons**

**v.30** – The Scripture says to *“cast out the bondwoman and her son”*

- for they cannot have the inheritance that belongs to the *“son of the freewoman”*.

**v.31** – **we are the children of promise** because we are Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise (**Gal.3:29**).

- *“Therefore, if the Son makes you free you shall be free indeed”*  
**John 8:36**
- *“We are not children of the bondwoman but of the free”*.
- Hallelujah!

# GALATIANS

## Chapter Five

### **Stand in the freedom of the Gospel**

**Galatians 5:1** – *“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free”*.

- This is in the context of being of the ‘free woman’ – the New Jerusalem, coming into sonship (from **Galatians 4**)
- We are not to go back to the rudimentary spirits, the elements of idol worship or Judaistic law (**Gal.4:3,9**)
- In the modern church, it has not been clearly discerned what the church is.
- Paul gives such an awesome vision of the church in the **book of Ephesians**; we need to come back to the Scriptural reality of the church
- Do not look at the work of man, man’s tradition, man’s way of doing things
- We are to **stand fast in the liberty by which Christ has made us free ... not being entangled again with a yoke of bondage.**
- Free from the bondage of man’s ways: **Acts 13:1-3** is an awesome example of the church functioning in the New Testament, elders and brethren seeking God, being sent out in ministries appointed by the Holy Spirit; when we have the right foundation we can build.

### **Do not turn back to the bondage of religion**

**v.2** – it will profit us nothing if we turn back to Jewish things, like circumcision

- Christ will profit us nothing if we take on other doctrine, another gospel.

**v.3** – once you submit to the law and Jewish practice, you are bound to keep the whole law.

**v.4** – if you attempt to be justified by keeping the law, you will be estranged from Christ

- ‘*estranged*’ means you are separated from the one you love, and your attention goes onto other things.

- ***“You have fallen from grace”*** if you seek justification by the law, because you are trying to earn it through works of the law, thinking that will please God.
- The Galatians needed to make a clear decision of **either law or grace**. You cannot be ‘two-way’ – it is the way of grace, or the way of law [Judaistic or cultural laws of ancestors, traditions etc].
- it is fearful that in these days, people are wanting to go back to ancient practices of tribes and aboriginal culture, pagan culture etc.

## **Our faith is in Christ and what He has done**

**Galatians 5:5** – we are to ***“eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith”***, through the Spirit.

- The hope of our being righteous by faith is even the full transformation of our spirit, soul and body (**1 Thess.5:23**)
- We are to make good decisions to live for Jesus

**v.6** – you cannot have faith and something else; do not add to your faith anything of the law

- Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision matters – it is ***“faith working through love”***.
- Appreciate what God has done for you, love Him and express that faith through love.
- So many are turning back to Judaism, Jewish practices, feeling that following a religion will hit the mark with God; we are to have no other alliance.

## **Beware of the ‘leaven’**

**v.7-9** – religion hinders you from obeying the truth – the truth is only found in Jesus (**Eph.4:20-21**)

- religion acts like leaven that infiltrates the whole lump. This leaven is not from Jesus – the leaven of religion, needing to be Jewish, following legalistic practices, etc.

**v.10** – ***“He who troubles you shall bear his judgment”***. There was a troubler among the church in Galatia that was spreading this leaven

- Someone was trying to persuade them to follow the law of Moses and the Jewish religious practices.

## **Our freedom is in Christ and what He has done**

**Galatians 5:11-12** – the cross is offensive because it says you do not need religion to be saved

- Jesus has done everything that was necessary.

**v.13-15** – We have been “*called to liberty*” – but our liberty in Christ is not to be used to feel free to sin; thinking that Jesus has covered it all and it is okay to sin.

- Freedom in Christ is to be used to serve one another through love
- The law is fulfilled in us loving one another, loving our neighbour as ourselves
- Do not use the freedom to go against each other, beware lest you consume one another.

## **Walk in the Spirit**

**v.16-17** – we can choose to walk -

- according to the Spirit, or
- according to the flesh
- We are to “*walk in the Spirit*” so as not to get caught in the flesh
- We pass through all sorts of seasons; we need to make good choices, listening to the still small voice and be where He wants us to be
- This is how we stay under the covering, walking in step with the Spirit
- When we walk in the Spirit we do not end up doing what our flesh wants, the flesh is at war with the Spirit

**v.18** – we are not “*under the law*” if we are led by the Spirit

- We fulfill the law when we are led by the Spirit

## **The works of the flesh**

**v.19-21** – the works of the flesh are evident, able to be clearly seen

- Those who practice these things will not inherit the kingdom of God
- Sorcery is there among idolatry, jealousies, outbursts of wrath
- Witchcraft is a fleshly practice, that is, working through the power of evil spirits; it is not a spiritual practice
- Selfish ambition is in the same list as fornication and adultery
- Heresies – bringing in division through false teaching

## **The fruit of the Spirit**

**Galatians 5:22-23** – *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control”*

- These are in total contrast to the works of the flesh
- These are the fruit of the Spirit of God working in your life
- Religion and Judaism does not produce this fruit
- There is no law against these – these fruit will fulfill the law, the law being written on our hearts

## **Live in the Spirit**

**v.24-26** – those who belong to Christ have *“crucified the flesh with its passions and desires”*.

- No longer living under the control of the passions and desires
- If we **live in the Spirit** (born again), let us also **walk in step with the Spirit of God (Romans 8:14)**, (spirit-filled)
- Do not be conceited – having a high opinion of one’s self, provoking people into arguments and resentments, causing envy – but love one another and be in the Spirit.
- Once born again, we are **stay in the Spirit, walk and live in the Spirit!**

# **GALATIANS**

## **Chapter Six**

### **Bearing one another's burdens**

v.1 – Paul is talking to the brethren in the church of Galatia, *“If a man is overtaken in any trespass”*.

- ‘trespass’ is any form of sin
- we are to bring restoration in a spirit of gentleness
- temptation is common to man, and we are to be willing to help, but not getting so close that we are tempted also (**1 Cor.10:13**).

v.2 – what is the law of Christ? *“Bear one another's burdens”* - helping each other out; supporting others in what they are going through.

- this fulfills the law of Christ – the law of Christ is ‘love’.

v.3 – do not think about yourself too highly – do not deceive yourselves thinking you are something when you are nothing

- remember God *“resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble”* (**James 4:6**)

v.4 – *“Let each one examine his own work”* – self-scrutiny, look at yourself and do not exaggerate the work you have done in the Lord

- then you can rejoice in yourself in the Lord
- look to serve others to instead of focusing on your own issues.

### **Each one to carry their own load**

v.5 – *“for each one shall bear his own load”* - we can ‘bear one another's burdens’ and help out where there is a need, but there is a ‘load’ that only the individual can carry and take responsibility for.

- there are certain things that only we individually can carry – it is not for others to carry.
- We need to recognise what is a ‘burden’ we can help bear for others, and what is a ‘load’ that only that person can bear.
- some things are totally irrelevant to other people – they are for us alone.

## Sowing and reaping

**Galatians 6:6** – *“Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches”*. This is a basic principle – tithing and giving.

- giving honour to those who have taught us.
- share the offerings – do not forget where you have come from.

**v.7** – *“God is not mocked”* - there is a principle of sowing and reaping – this is not speaking about the prosperity gospel. Beware of those who demand offerings for themselves.

- this is in context of **verse eight**.

**v.8** – The principle of sowing:

- *“he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption”*
- *“he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life”*

- if you sow according to the flesh, you will reap corruption
- sow into the kingdom of God, invest in the kingdom of God, sow in obedience to the Lord and of the Spirit you will reap everlasting life.
- Our giving is unto God, it should always be by faith

## Do good to all

**v.9** – **‘do not be weary in doing good’** – you shall reap in due season

- *“do not lose heart”* – we have the opportunity to do good

**v.10** – *“do good to all”* – be generous, especially to the household of faith, the believers; other members of the body.

- this is help in all sorts of practical and financial ways

## Final words

**v.11** – **Paul is signing off in his own hand** – so you can know he wrote this letter, showing his appreciation of them, his personal involvement with them.

**v.12** – **A reminder of what has been written in the letter**

- Paul is referring back to the initial part of the letter.
- reminding them again that **circumcision has no value** in regard to their salvation; it may only help them not suffer persecution.
- stay strong in the truth, not in religious practice and an outward show

**v.13** – circumcision was just a religious practice, to boast that they belong to the Judaizers. Do not get caught up in religious practices.



## Our boast is in the Cross

**Galatians 6:14** – only boast in the Cross of Christ, not religious outward observance.

- the world is dead to those who have received salvation; it is not life giving, **‘I have been crucified to the world’**.
- through the Cross we come to know what ‘true life’ is.
- we should **boast in the work and power of the Cross** to transform our lives from death to life. Our life now comes from the kingdom of God.
- the Cross is what has removed the sin, load of judgement, from us.
- in coming to the Lord’s Table regularly, we are boasting in the Cross.

## v.15 – What matters is a new creation

- Religious practice avails nothing
- what is the mark of revival today? A new creation
- when you start to walk in the new creation atmosphere, you change every day, it is experiential.

## Walk according to the rule

**v.16** – we are to *“walk according to this rule”*

- **Philippians 3:16** uses the same Greek word for ‘rule’ = ‘*a straight measuring reed, a rod, a canon, a standard, setting a boundary, a sphere of activity, a standard of behaviour*’
- the ‘rule’ is not a series of regulations to follow, but a lifestyle and behaviour to have, learning to live in Christ, a standard of faith and practice.
- **the Word of God is the ‘rule’**.
- the *“Israel of God”* is not speaking of natural Israel but of the people of God, those who are a **‘new creation’**.
- *“and”* could be translated *“even”*, emphasising those who walk according to this rule, even the Israel of God
- this Israel is of God (**Romans 9:6**) – they are *“not all Israel who are of Israel”* → it is the seed of Abraham (**Gal.3:29**)

## **A release of Grace**

**Galatians 6:17** – Paul has suffered much for the name of Jesus – he knows what it is like to have to bear the brunt of persecution for Jesus

- ***“let no one trouble me”***, I have been living for Jesus, been persecuted for it,
- Paul knew how to stand in the truth of the gospel

**v.18** – ***“the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit”***

- grace is to be in our spirit.
- there is a blessing of grace from our Lord Jesus Christ to be with our spirit, comforting us, no matter what is happening in our personal situations. Strengthening us spiritually.
- this is how we **receive and walk in the reality of Christ**; we are to be at peace and not agitated or distressed about our situation.
- **Romans 1:9** – we **serve God with our spirit** in the gospel of His Son.
- Paul is talking about the spirit man being built up by grace.

**AMEN**