



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



# The Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians

## Chapter 6

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# Introduction

- In this chapter, St. Paul reveals that liberty in Christ involves responsibilities.
- Those who are "spiritual" are to restore those overtaken in trespasses
- All are to bear one another's burden thereby fulfilling the "law of Christ".
- At the same time, each Christian ought to examine himself and seek to bear his own load



# Introduction

- Further responsibilities involve sharing with those who teach and not growing weary in doing good to all, especially those of the household of faith.
- As motivation to do good, St. Paul reminds them of the principles of "sowing" and "reaping", particularly as it relates to the flesh and Spirit.
- St. Paul concluded by a remark about circumcision, the cross, and new creation.

# Bear and Share the Burdens (6: 1-5)



- Overtaken: find an excuse to those who sin.
- Restore: make your focus how to restore instead of judging.
- Spiritual: only the spirituals who have the fruit of gentleness can do this.
- Gentleness: speaking truth in love.
- Considering yourself: you are not above sin.
- It is protection for the spirituals from pride
- Also it is protection from temptation.

# Bear and Share the Burdens (6: 1-5)



- Justification by faith does not mean fulfilling not the law of Christ (love).
- Bearing one another's burdens: Do not judge, be patient and gentle, and restore.
- None of us is something because if we have anything good in us, this is from God and through His grace
- So, if you think that you are something, you are deceiving yourself.

# Bear and Share the Burdens (6: 1-5)



- Instead of judging others, examine your work.
- If there is something good, rejoice in the Lord who granted you His grace.
- What profits you when you rejoice in others but not examining your own self.
- Don't you know that you will bear your own load (accountability before God)?
- The difference between the load (work) and the burden.(sin).



# Be Generous and Do Good (6: 6-10)



- Liberty means responsibility.
- Do not misunderstand the concept of “load” regarding the servants of God.
- Our responsibility toward our churches and clergy.
- Be responsible and don’t try to trick God to be blessed.
- This is like an attempt to ridicule God who is not mocked.

# Be Generous and Do Good (6: 6-10)



- The law of harvest (sowing and reaping).
- What a man sows, that he will also reap
- Sow to the flesh, and you reap corruption
- Sow to the Spirit, and you reap everlasting life
- Don't grow weary in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not lose heart
- Where there is opportunity, do good to all, especially to those of the household of faith



# Glory Only in the Cross (6: 11-15)



- Owing to his weakness of eyes he wrote in large letters.
- He writes with his own hand, in order that they may see what a regard he had for them, in contrast to the Judaizers, who sought only their own ease.
- The motivation behind those who compel others to be circumcised
  - ❖ They desire to make a good showing in the flesh (in outward things).

# Glory Only in the Cross (6: 11-15)



- ❖ They do not want to suffer persecution for the cross of Christ
- ❖ They wish to glory in your flesh
- For not even those who are circumcised keep the law either because they understand that justification is through faith or because of lack of zeal.
- Christians boast in the cross, the means of their justification.

# Glory Only in the Cross (6: 11-15)



- This means he rejoices in those afflictions which he suffers for Christ's sake
- The world has been crucified to me: the world is dead to me
- I to the world: I am dead to the world.
- In Christ, circumcision is insignificant; what matters is a new creation
- Baptism is the antitype of circumcision, through which we are crucified with Christ and become new creation in Him.

# Blessing and a Plea (6: 16-18)



- Those who abide by this rule (new creation), will obtain peace and mercy.
- Israel of God: Not the Israel after the flesh, among whom those Judaizers; but the spiritual seed of Abraham by faith
- let no man trouble me by opposing my apostolic authority, seeing that it is stamped by a sure seal
- Marks of sufferings: means that he belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ.

# Blessing and a Plea (6: 16-18)



- He glorifies in these marks vs. the Judaizers who glorifies in the marks of the flesh.
- Brethren: although they troubled him but they are still his brethren
- The grace: what they needed the most, without which they cannot be justified.
- Your spirit: St. Paul intentionally focusing on the spirit to remind them that what matters is the spiritual man not the carnal man.



# Conclusion

- What should the feelings of 'the spirituals' who are trying to restore 'who is taken in any trespass' be?
- Is there contradiction in the following verses:
  - ❖ Bear one another burden
  - ❖ Each one will carry his own load
- In verses 3 and 4 there is a practical way to reach humbleness, explain.
- Why did St. Paul write with large letters? How did this reflects his feelings?





# Conclusion

- Why did the Apostle Paul choose the Cross to boast in?
- Why did the Judaic enforce circumcision on the converts more than the rest of the law?
- What is the correlation between, circumcision, the Cross and the new creation?