

**2016: Week 28**

Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup> 2016

*"A Spiritual Life"*

**Galatians 6:9–10**

<sup>9</sup>Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. <sup>10</sup>So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith." (NASB)

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On Sunday we studied an excellent passage in Paul's final chapter in his letter to the Galatian churches. In Galatians 6:1–10 Paul enlightens us on what is involved in living a spiritual life. First and foremost, the spiritual life can only be embarked under the direction of the Holy Spirit by an individual who is actually saved and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. It is for this reason that Paul arranges this letter in the respective sequence. Galatians 1–4 detail how an individual is justified by faith in Christ according to the grace of God. Galatians 5 provides teaching for how an individual is to be led and directed by the Holy Spirit. Finally, it is in Galatians 6 that Paul provides specifics for what living the spiritual life should look like. Let's dig a bit into Galatians 6:1–10 and discover what the Lord might want to teach you this week.

**1. READ Galatians 6:1**

- In what manner is a believer called to "restore" another brother or sister in Christ?
- What caution does Paul provide when restoring a person into fellowship after a specific sin?
- How might principles from this verse work in conjunction with Jesus' words in Matthew 18:15–20 pertaining to interacting with another brother's (or sister's) sin?

**2. READ Galatians 6:2–5**

- In 6:2 Paul says "bear one another's burdens," but in 6:5 he says "for each one will bear his own load." How is this not a contradiction?
- The term Paul uses in 6:2 is βάρη (from the Greek term *baros*), which means a "heavy burden, weight" while the term he uses in 6:5 is φορτίον (from the Greek *fortion*), which means "load." Commentator Charles Ryrie notes that the first term in which Christians are called to help other Christians pertains to "the excess burdens that we need to share with one another" (*Ryrie Study Bible* note on Galatians 6:2). The term for load used in 6:5 is that which each person is called to bear on his own, or "the normal amount each must carry for himself" (Ryrie). We are responsible for our choices and the regular "loads" within our lives, but sometimes there are situations too big for us to handle. We all need help, and ultimately we should seek that help from the Lord through prayer. Another place in which Paul urges believers seek help is from other believers within the local church.

Are there lighter loads in your life (6:5) that you need to do a better job of carrying yourself? If so, what are they?

Are there heavy loads in your life (6:2) that you need to do a better job of seeking help from others in the church? If so, what are they?

**3. READ Galatians 6:6–10**

- In these verses Paul discusses ideas such as "giving," "sowing," "not losing heart," and "doing good." Which of these concepts is the Lord helping you do a pretty good job right now?

Which of these concepts do you think the Lord wants you to make some big steps towards improvement?

- In 6:10, Paul tells us that we should "do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith." How might the Lord want you to apply this verse to someone in your church family?

**FAMILY PRAYER:** Ask the Lord for the strength and power to walk under the leading of His Spirit. Ask for His help to enable you to serve others, to bear one another's burdens, and to do good to all people with the proper attitude.