

# Paul's Closing Arguments

(Galatians 6:1-18) (XI)

- Paul's differences with Judaizers and concern for the Galatians was not a minor matter. Eternal salvation was at stake.
- Has Paul said enough that he can close with a sweet appeal?
  - No – he must use another sword thrust...
  - Paul makes a final point for their own good. (cf. 13)

# I. Restore the Fallen, 1-10

1:

- Brethren: nine times in this epistle. Ro.16
- If a man is overtaken (caught)...
  - Overpowered by satan before he knows what hit him. Noah, Gn.9
  - Christian can be overtaken by sin; caught up without warning. 1 Tim.6:9
- In any trespass (sin). Mt.6:14. 2 Sm.12.  
Gal.2:11-13

1:

- You who are spiritual: 5:25
- Restore such a one: put in order, mend your ways. Restore to former condition. Mt.4:21.
- In spirit of gentleness (5:22): Not overly impressed by sense of one's self-importance.  
*Humility.*
  - One who accepts God's dealings without disputing – opposite of <sup>1</sup>arrogance, or <sup>2</sup>harshness.
  - Lk.10, pour in oil / wine.
  - Gn.4:9, brother's keeper...? Gal.4:19-20

1:

- Considering yourself:
  - May get caught up in same sin.
  - Paul answered Galatians' issues item by item without compromise.
- Lest you also be tempted. Ac.20:28

## 2:

- Bear: v.5. Mt.22:12.
- One another's burdens: 2 Co.5:4. Ro.12:15.
- Fulfill law of Christ: 5:13-14. Ja.2:8.

### 3:

- If anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself...:
  - Self-importance = self-ignorance. Lethal.
- “Too strong to fall. . .” “Too high to help. . .”  
“He needs no one . . . .”
  - Ph.4:13
  - Lk.17:7-10
  - Lk.18:9-13
  - Dan.4:30



4:

- But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another
  - Examine: prove; make a critical exam of something; put to the test.
  - Lk.14:19
  - 1 Co.11:28

## 5:

- For each one shall bear his own load:
  - Contrast v.2, 4, 5.
  - Ac.27:10, ‘Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also of our lives.

6:

- Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches
  - Instructor has good things; student receives them. The teacher has good things; the student participates in them and is enriched.
    1. Does Paul expect the Galatians to support him financially...?
    2. Does he expect them to support their Judaizing charlatans?

## 7:

- Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap
  - Deceived: go astray, be deluded, mistaken.  
Mt.22:29
  - Mocked: turn up the nose at, treat with contempt.
  - Whatever a man sows...: Gn.8:22

## 8:

- For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life
  - V.8 is the application to the law (v.7)
  - Mt.13:3ff., different sowers ... different soils
  - Ro.8:12-13
    - Sow to flesh: pander to it; ct. Ph.3:19
    - We reap – either from harvest field of flesh, or of Spirit
    - Life – either quantity (Mt.25:46) or quality

## 9:

- And let us not grow weary while doing good –  
For in due season we shall reap if we do not  
lose heart
  - Do not grow weary: lose enthusiasm, be discouraged.
  - Do not lose heart: 2 Th.3:13. Ja.5:7
  - Do not quit.

10:

9: negative . . . 10: positive

- Therefore – sums up 6-9
- Opportunity – after reaping spiritually good things from our teachers, we share it with others
- Especially – the Christian wants to teach everyone, but his special concern is for fellow Christians (household of faith).
- Paragraph: v.1, restore fallen. 2, bear others' burdens. 10, summary admonition

I. Restore the Fallen, 1-10

II. Remember the Cross, 11-18



## 11:

- See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!
  - Because of age, injury, or emphasis (?) Paul writes this closing section in large letters.
  - We show emphasis with capitals, underlining, bold...
  - Common to employ a secretary, then conclude in own hand. 2 Th.3:17

## 12:

- As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.
  - “We are doing more to spread Judaism than the most rigid Jews”
  - *Cross*: 5:11, 6:12, 14 (*crucified*: 6:14)
  - Galatians are influenced by Judaizers who want them to be circumcised so that they can avoid persecution

## 13:

- For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh
  - They do **not** keep the Law.
  - They use Galatians like notches on pistol...
  - They care nothing for the Galatians. Mt.23:4

## 14:

- But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world
- There are three crosses in this chapter – Paul boasts about the . . .
  1. Cross on which Christ died (6:12)
  2. Cross by which the world was crucified to Paul (6:14a)
  3. Cross by which Paul was crucified to the world (6:14b)

14:

This cross was the . . .

- a. Manifestation of divine love, Jn.3:16
- b. Magnet that attracted him, Jn.12:32
- c. Means of his salvation, Jn.3:16
- d. Model for him to imitate, Ph.2:5-8

## 15:

- For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation (2 Cor.5:17)
  - Parallels 5:6
  - Judaizers cannot offer anything that will save

## 16:

- And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God
  - Walk: be in line with a person or thing considered as standard for one's conduct, *hold to, agree with, follow, conform*
  - Rule: standard; measuring rod.
    - We measure doctrine and life by Scripture.
    - Canon of NT – God's standard

## 16:

- And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God
  - Peace be on them – no longer living in fear of God's wrath
  - Mercy – God's compassion...desire to help
  - And upon Israel of God – Ro.9:6



## 16:

- And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God
  - Church is Israel of God (Jews / Gentiles who obey Him). 3:29
  - Church has a 'rule' (standard) to give it direction.
  - Church enjoys peace and mercy if it walks by this rule

## 17:

- From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus
  - Three groups were branded: soldiers, slaves, devotees
  - Paul is Lord's soldier / slave / devotee
  - Galatians who see his marks (battle scars for Lord) should stand firm for truth as he does.  
2 Co.11:25

## 18:

- Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen
  - Brethren: members of Father's family (Ep.3:14-15). Parting dig.
  - Exalted names –
    - Lord: (Title of God in OT) - Rule
    - Jesus: (Joshua of OT) - Savior
    - Christ: (anointed one) - Mediator, High Priest, Eternal king
  - Grace: don't part with it. [Ct. 3:10, cursed]  
Make your choice