

Galatians 6:2-10 – Sowing and Reaping

Those who are the true children of God are those who are born of God, born from above, born of the Spirit. These births are not three different births. They are three different ways to describe someone who becomes a child of God. The spiritual birth is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. We are made spiritually alive by God. God gives us his Spirit to indwell all who are his adopted children. Paul said in 5:25, “If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.” The word “walk” here is different from the word “walk” in 5:16 “But I say, walk by the Spirit.” The word “walk” in verse 25 is a less common word which could be translated “follow” or “be in harmony with”. Walking by the Spirit (5:16), being led by the Spirit (5:18) and following the Spirit (5:25) manifests itself by the fruit of the Spirit. It puts to death the desires of the flesh. It enables us to love one another as Christ loved us.

Read Galatians 6:1-5.

In what ways can we bear one another’s burdens? What is the “law of Christ”? (6:2)

Verse 3 talks about those who think they are something when they are nothing. How does this self deceit affect them? In other words, what does this false sense of importance prevent them from doing? See Titus 1:10 for another example of those who are deceivers.

How should we test our own work? What happens when we compare our works to others? What should be the basis for our boasting? (6:4)

How is the “load” of verse 5 different from the “burden” of verse 2? Both verses include the same word “bear”. What does it mean that each of us needs to bear our own load? (6:5)

Read Galatians 6:6-10.

What should those who are taught the word do for those who teach the word? (6:6) What other verses in the Bible speak to this principle? See 1 Corinthians 9:6-12 and 1 Timothy 5:17-18.

Verse 7 talks about the principle of sowing and reaping. Jesus used the words “sowing” and “reaping” to teach his disciples spiritual truths. Paul also used the words “sowing” and “reaping” to teach spiritual truths. What is the meaning of verse 7? How is this verse misused?

How does someone sow to their own flesh? What is their harvest? In the Galatian churches, who were especially guilty of sowing to their own flesh? How does someone sow to the Spirit? What is the harvest when someone sows to the Spirit? Is Paul talking about justification, sanctification or both? (6:8)

In verse 9, Paul encouraged the believers not to grow weary of doing good? What can make us weary of doing good? “Doing good” implies good deeds. Here again we see that although our good deeds don’t save us, we are to be engaged in good deeds as a result of our new life in Christ. What are some examples of good deeds that we can do for others?

What is the promise for those who do not grow weary of doing good? (6:9)

When should we do good deeds for others? Who are the recipients of our good deeds? (6:10)

If a non-Christian had a need and a member of our church had a need and there was only enough money to help one person, which person should we help? (6:10)

The book of Galatians lays out a defense of the one true Gospel. The one true Gospel is centered on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are declared righteous in the eyes of God when, by God’s grace alone, we, though faith alone, accept the righteousness of Christ alone as the basis for our justification. This leaves no room for our own works. Our works have no part in our justification. It also leaves no room for boasting about what we did. We didn’t do anything to earn our justification. Our justification is for God’s glory alone. Who do you think will do more good deeds? Will someone who is justified by faith in Christ do more good deeds or will someone who thinks they can work their way to heaven do more good deeds?