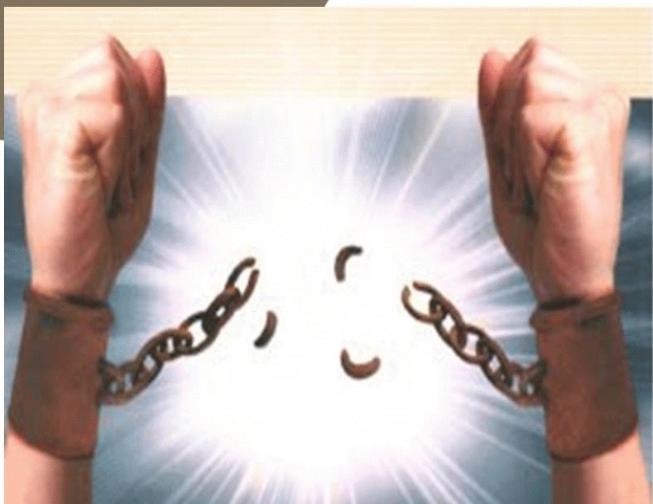


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# ALIVE IN CHRIST

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

The Letter to the  
GALATIANS

WEEK 11

## Day 1

**Study:** Galatians 6:1-5

**Reading:** Matthew 7:1-5, II Samuel 12:1-14

**Memory:** Proverbs 3:14

After the September 11, 2001 tragedy, there were many stories of heroism that were in the news. One of these amazing stories had to do with a man who was severely burnt during the catastrophe. There had been an explosion where this man had been standing and the explosion blew him out into the street. He was lying there in pain and was unable to walk. Another man saw him, picked him up and carried him several blocks away to his car. He then rushed him to the hospital where the doctors were able to save his life.

Today, we are going to see how we as Christians should help other Christians who are in need. Too often, we leave other Christians to die spiritually and even look down on them while they are dying.

### What Does the Bible Say?

Until the return of Christ, the church will always have some of its members who fall into sin. All of us will be in this category at one time or another because we are imperfect humans. That doesn't mean that it is okay, but it gives us an understanding of what Paul is talking about in verse 1. Paul knew that believers would sin and knew that the church was a great source of help to encourage believers to do what is right. When a person is involved in sin, it is the responsibility of other believers to help that person get back on track. Paul says that this should be done in a spirit of gentleness. It is easier than you realize to see a person in sin and talk bad about that person. It is easy to respond by ignoring them because they have chosen the wrong path. When we see another Christian who sins and we turn our backs on them, we are sinning ourselves. We need to go to that person in love and graciously try to help them do what is right. While we are helping others overcome sin in their lives, we also have to keep a close eye on our lives. Falling into the same sin that we are trying to help others out of is easier than we think (vs 1).

God also wants us to bear each others' burdens. When a member of

the church is hurting or in need, we need to be there for them to help them. This is often neglected in our “me first” society because it will cost us time and money when we are bearing the burdens of others. This not only includes helping those who are sick and in financial need, but it is directed to those who need spiritual help as well (vs 2).

When we look down on those who sin, we have the wrong view of ourselves. We think we are something, when we really aren't. Who knows where we would be if it wasn't for the grace of God (vs 3). Too often we spend our time judging others and comparing our lives against theirs. God wants us to examine our lives according to His Word. When we examine ourselves, we will see that the only reason we have something to boast about is because of God (vs 3-4). When we stand before God at the judgement seat, we will only give an account for our actions and what we have done (vs 5). Basically, Paul is telling us that when we realize who we are in Christ, we will realize that we have no reason to look down on others when they fall into sin. Instead, we will desire to reach out and help them come back into fellowship with Christ, just as we would want someone to help us.

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

What is your reaction when you see someone who is sinning? Do you lovingly try to help them or do you look down on them because of what they do? When you look down on them and talk bad about them, you are falling into sin yourself. You need to lovingly reach out to that person and help them back into a vibrant relationship with Christ. This can only be effective if you are living in a vibrant relationship with Christ yourself. The next time you see someone involved in sin, in a kind and loving way, go to that person and try to help them restore their relationship with Christ.

## **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* *Thank God for His willingness to love a sinner like you.*
- \* *Ask God to help you guard against looking down on sinners.*

## **Thought for the day**

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# **Day 2**

**Study:** Galatians 6:6-10

**Reading:** Isaiah 40:1-31

**Memory:** James 5:5

**W**hen I was six years old, my parents loaded up our station wagon and took us camping. We were planning on camping in a campground where my parents had stayed a couple of years before. When we arrived at the campground, we found out that the campground was full. It was already late in the night since we left after my dad had come home from work. The park ranger directed my dad to another campground about 20 miles away. We drove and drove but didn't see the campground. My dad finally decided to turn around. We searched for the campground for more than an hour until we finally found what we were looking for. We realized that if we had just gone another ½ mile the first time, we would have found the campground and saved ourselves a great deal of time.

Today, we are going to see that we will reap a spiritual harvest when we are faithful to sow the righteousness of God.

## **What Does the Bible Say?**

Paul spent most of the letter to the Galatians explaining how they are under grace and not under the law. He then used the last chapter to teach them some practical lessons that apply to a person's responsibility in the church. Yesterday, we read that it was a believer's responsibility to live a spiritual life and help others who have fallen into sin (vs 1-5). In verse 6, Paul tells the Galatians what their responsibility was in taking care of their pastors and church leaders. When a believer is taught the Word of God, it is their responsibility to help support the teachers financially. When a dollar value is assigned to something, it displays how important that thing is to a person. The more a person supports a teacher financially, the more he shows how God and spiritual things are valuable to him.

The next few verses explain the importance of giving to God, though they can also be applied to any daily action. One of the things that false teachers do is deceive their followers. The meaning of the word “mocked” means to turn up the nose at. Paul didn't want them to be

deceived into thinking that they can turn their noses at God. He declared the truth that we reap what we sow. Keep in mind that Paul just spent five chapters explaining how God loves us no matter what we do. Because He loves us, He doesn't withhold the effects of sin. Because He loves us, He doesn't withhold blessings for obedience. Paul used one of the most basic principles of nature to teach us how we should give to God's servants as well as how we should live a life that brings glory to Him (vs 7).

If we put our time, money and efforts into earthly things, we will reap the earthly things which do not last. But when we put our time, effort, and money into spiritual things, we will reap spiritual rewards in this life and for all eternity (vs 8). Paul didn't want the believers who were doing right to quit because he knew that they would someday reap the spiritual harvest that they had worked so hard planting (vs 9). Paul challenged the Galatians to continue to show love toward all men, especially their fellow believers in the church. True Christianity is displayed in the way that we love other people (vs 10).

### **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Do you ever get down and discouraged in your spiritual life? Does it seem that Satan is winning and you are not getting through to the people you are trying to minister to? If so, welcome to the club. Your problem isn't new. In fact, several men of God throughout the Bible experienced down times in their life because they were doing what was right and nothing good was happening. Some of them died not seeing any results from the years of effort they had put into trying to help people see their need for God. Was their effort in vain? No, not at all. Each one of them personally reaped the spiritual benefits for sowing righteousness and have had and still have a profound effect in the lives of people today. You are not responsible for the results of living the way God wants you to. He is responsible for them, and He has promised that there will be a harvest. Your responsibility is to sow the righteous deeds of love and sacrifice for Him.

### **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* Thank God for rewarding your righteous living.
- \* Ask God to help you not to quit living for Him.
- \* Praise God because He is not a quitter.

## ***Day 3***

**Study:** Galatians 6:1-2

**Reading:** Romans 15:1-7

**Memory:** Proverbs 3:14

Who is Paul concerned about in the beginning of verse 1?

How have you seen Christian brothers get caught up in sin?

Who should help those who are caught in sin (vs 1)?

How would you define a spiritual person?

*\*\*\*Think back to the context found in Galatians 5. It describes how the life of a person will look if he is led by the Spirit.*

Why type of spirit should the person doing the correcting have (vs 1b)?

Why do you think this is so important?

Why should the person doing the correcting be careful (vs 1c)?

*\*\*\*Often, helping someone out of their sin requires talking and discussion about the sin. The reason that sin is easy to fall into is that sin is very tempting and the temptation is quite powerful.*

What are we supposed to do for one another (vs 2a)?

What are we doing when we do this (vs 2b)?

What are ways you can bear the burdens of others?

*\*\*\*We will see tomorrow that there are some burdens that you can't bear for others. It also needs to be noted that you can't bear the burdens of everyone around you. Keep in mind the context this verse is given in. The bearing of the burdens is done for the believer who is in sin. You are*

*to help lighten their load to make it easier for them to bear their burden until they are strong enough to carry it for themselves.*

### **Romans 15:1-7**

What should the strong believer do (vs 1)?

What should the strong believer not do (vs 1)?

*\*\*\*In Chapter 14, Paul described how we need to be careful in our choices so that we don't cause weaker believers to stumble in their spiritual walk.*

What should we focus on (vs 2)?

How can you build others up?

What example did Paul give (vs 3)?

Why does Paul say the Old Testament was written (vs 4)?

What do you think verse 4 has to do with the context of verses 1-3?

Why does it take endurance and courage to help bear one another's burdens (vs 5)?

What should be the end result of restoration (vs 6)?

How are we supposed to treat other believers (vs 7)?

Why are we supposed to welcome others as Christ welcomed us (vs 7)?

What will be the result (vs 7b)?

### **Practical Application**

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my every day life?

## ***Day 4***

**Study:** Galatians 6:3-5

**Reading:** Matthew 7:1-5

**Memory:** Proverbs 3:14

Why would a person think he is something (vs 3)?

How can we deceive ourselves (vs 3)?

What do you think verse 3 means?

*\*\*\*According to verses 1 & 2, we are to reach out and help others in love. Verse 3 reminds us that we are not better than others and we can't approach others with a self-righteous or prideful attitude.*

What do each one of us need to do (vs 4)?

*\*\*\*We need to examine our hearts and lives according to the Word of God and not examine our lives by comparing our actions with the actions of others.*

Why do you think we are told to take pride in ourselves (vs 4b)?

*\*\*\*The idea here appears to be finding satisfaction in our personal obedience to God and letting His Spirit work in us and through us. It is in contrast with allowing pride to swell up inside of us when we compare our goodness with others.*

What are each of us responsible for (vs 5)?

Why do you think we are commanded to bear the burdens of others (vs 2) and then we are told that we must bear our own burdens (vs 5)?

*\*\*\*The Greek word often translated "burden" in verse 2 is different than the one translated "burden" in verse 5. The word in verse 2 indicates a crushing heavy weight that was too much for one person to bear, while*

*the word in verse 5 was a reference to anything that was carried with little or no difficulty. It often referred to a backpack that each soldier carried. Simply put, we are responsible to carry the personal load that God has called us to carry, but we need to be willing and ready to help out others who are struggling under the weight of their load.*

### **Matthew 7:1-5**

What are we not supposed to do (vs 1)?

Why are we not supposed to do this?

What will happen when we judge others (vs 2)?

What do you think this means?

What illustration did Jesus give (vs 3-4)?

Why is this simple illustration so powerful?

Describe a time where you have seen this take place in your life.

What are we called when we attempt to help others when we ourselves have the same problem (vs 5)?

What are we told to do about this (vs 5)?

How do you know if you are in the condition to help others with the problems they are having?

*\*\*\*This is a very good question. Some people may be scared to try to help others after reading both passages today. You should always seek to help others, but heed the warnings that are given.*

### **Practical Application**

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my every day life?

# Day 5

**Study:** Galatians 6:6-8

**Reading:** I Timothy 5:17-18, I Corinthians 9:8-11

**Memory:** Proverbs 3:14

What are those who are taught supposed to do for the one who teaches the Word (vs 6)?

What does this verse mean?

*\*\*\*Though not everyone who teaches the Word of God needs to be paid, it is a good practice to give to those who study the Word and teach it to others. Many people think one who teaches the Word just stands up and says what is on his mind, but those who do justice to the Word of God take a great deal of time to study and prepare before teaching. Jesus told us “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matt 6:21). When we give financially to those who are teaching the Word, we are placing a value on the Word that has been taught.*

How does your giving show how valuable the teaching of God’s Word is to you?

What principle is taught in verse 7?

Why do you think we are told “God is not mocked” (vs 7-ESV)?

Why do you think we are warned not to be deceived (vs 7)?

How can a person sow to his own flesh (vs 8)?

What will be the result?

How can we “sow to the Spirit” (vs 8)?

What will be the result (vs 8)?

\*\*\**The term “everlasting life” at the end of verse 8 is not just a reference to eternity, but also speaks of the abundance of life here on earth. This is not an abundance in earthly things, but a full life of joy and satisfaction.*

Why do you think the sowing and reaping principle was given here right after Paul challenged the believer to give to those who taught the Word?

\*\*\**When you value the teaching of the Word and give to support it, you will reap the benefits. When you sink your time and money into earthly things (things of the flesh) you will reap the consequences for your choices.*

### **I Timothy 5:17-18**

Who is worthy of “double honor” (vs 17 - ESV)?

\*\*\**“Double honor” does not necessarily mean that a person should get exactly twice as much, but that a person should be well taken care of for the work and effort they do.*

What illustration did Paul use to prove his point (vs 18)? What point was he making?

Who deserves to be paid (vs 18)?

### **I Corinthians 9:8-11**

What illustration did Paul refer to in verses 8-9?

What illustration is used in verse 10?

What point was Paul making (vs 11)?

### **Practical Application**

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my every day life?

# Day 6

**Study:** Galatians 6:9-10

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 15:58, 1 Peter 3:8-18

**Memory:** Proverbs 3:14

What should we not grow tired of doing (vs 9)?

Why is it important to realize that you will be rewarded when you don't give up (vs 9)?

What should we do continually with our lives (vs 10)?

\*\*\**The Greek word often translated “opportunity” isn't a reference to an occasional chance, but refers to a fixed period of time. The idea is that the lives of believers should be continually focused on serving others.*

Who are we to give special attention to (vs 10)?

### **1 Corinthians 15:58**

\*\*\**In Chapter 15, Paul described the importance of the resurrection and how the doctrine of the resurrection gives us hope.*

What does it mean to be steadfast and immovable (vs 58a)?

How should we work for the Lord (vs 58b)?

What can we be assured about when it comes to our service for the Lord (vs 58c)?

Why do we need reminders like this?

### **1 Peter 3:8-18**

What are we commanded to have (vs 8)?

What are we not supposed to do (vs 9)?

What are we supposed to do (vs 9)?

Peter quoted Psalm 34:12-14. What was his point for quoting this (vs 10-12)?

What question did Paul present in verse 13?

What will happen when we suffer for doing right (vs 14)?

What should we always be ready to do (vs 15)?

What does verse 15 indicate as one of the purposes for the trials we face?

What type of attitude are we to have when giving people God's perspective (vs 15b-16)?

Why is this so important?

What does verse 17 declare about suffering?

What did the suffering of Christ do (vs 18)?

### **Hebrews 12:1-3**

What should thinking about those who have served Christ before us challenge us to do (vs 1)?

What should we do with those things that weigh us down (vs 2)? What are some of those things in your life?

Who are you to look to as an example (vs 3)?

What does the example encourage you to do (vs 3)?

### **Practical Application**

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my every day life?

### **Bible Memory**

*Proverbs 3:1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, 2 for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. 3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. 7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. 8 It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. 9 Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; 10 then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. 11 My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, 12 for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights. 13 Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, 14 for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold.*