

Faith Worketh By Love

Sunday, October 14TH, 1990

Galatians 6:1-9

; Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden. Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

The Title of my message today is: "Faith Worketh By Love." If you want to follow along in your Bible, I'll be going verse by verse. Today, we are going to look at Galatians Chapter 6. We'll begin at Chapter 6: verse 1. While you are finding the scripture, let me make two or three introductory comments that are necessary to prepare you for the message on, "Faith Working By Love."

I'm sure some of you are familiar with the epistle to the Galatians. Paul wrote it. The apostle Paul had planted several churches in Galatia. There were several churches there and he preached there. He ministered there for a while.

Paul was now a prisoner in Rome. His ministry was nearing its end. Paul wouldn't see these people again. Word had come to him that some false preachers, (there are a lot of those), had crept into these churches. False preachers had come into these churches after Paul left. These false preachers had led many people away from the gospel of free grace in Christ. These false preachers came in and said, "Oh, it's all right to believe on Jesus, it is all right to trust in Jesus." These false preachers insisted that it was necessary, in order to be saved, to observe the Levitical Law.

They said that you had to keep the Sabbath days, certain Holy days, observe certain ordinances and laws. They said, "Touch not, taste not, and handle not." They said, "Keep certain days, pay your tithes, follow the law and try to keep all of these things to perfection." That way, they said, "*You'll be justified and sanctified.*"

Paul wrote this epistle combating this false message. He warned the people against these false preachers. This is the way that Paul starts out this Book of Galatians. He said, "I'm amazed that you have so soon departed from the gospel of God's grace to another

gospel, which is not another gospel, but is a perversion of the gospel of God's grace." He said, "I don't care if an angel from heaven comes down and adds something to Christ; let him be accursed. I don't care if an angel from heaven comes down there and tells you that it is necessary to be baptized or to keep a Holy day, or to keep a Sabbath, or to give a tithe. I don't care if an angel comes down and tells you to keep a certain ordinance, or to do these certain things, eat certain things or withdraw yourself from certain things. Adding this to Christ is just not so, you are saved by Christ alone. You are saved by grace alone."

It is not our works that save us; it is Christ that saves us. It's not our works; it's His work. It's not our righteousness; it is His righteousness. It's not our obedience; it is His obedience. We are redeemed freely, solely, completely, and totally by the life and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. It's not by Christ, plus anything.

Paul wrote in Ephesians, *"For by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast. We're God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus."* He wrote in Titus, *"It's not by works of righteousness, which we have done; it is according to His mercy that He hath saved us."* By the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified. In the flesh dwelleth no good thing.

That is what Paul is battling here. There is a subtle, satanic and crafty way that people do this. People come in and say, "Well, you know, you're supposed to believe, but." They say, "You're suppose to trust Christ, but." Oh no, it is Christ alone. In Him we are justified, in Him we are sanctified, in Him we're made righteous, in Him we are accepted, in Him we are Holy and unblameable. He purchased peace for us by the blood of His cross. You don't add anything to Christ. *"Christ is all and in all; you are complete in Him,"* the Word of God says. That is what Paul is battling in the Book of Galatians.

Some people can be deceived into thinking that those who believe in Christ and those who believe in the grace of God have no works. But, some can be deceived into thinking that works of righteousness and works of holiness are not important. The apostle Paul closes this Book of Galatians 5:6, with these words, *"Faith works,"* not to be saved, faith works because salvation in Christ is motivated by love to serve Him. *"Faith works by love."*

You take your Bible in Galatians 5:6 and underscore that. *"Faith works;"* saving faith works; true faith works. It does not work by law; it works by love. That's right! The believer works, but not by law, not under a whip; but he works by love.

The believer serves God, not because he has to, but because he wants to. The believer's fruit is not the fruit of law; it is the fruit of the Spirit and love. That's right! The believer labors; he has a labor of love. He works, but "*Faith worketh by love.*" Don't get it backwards. A believer is not working for a reward. He's not working because he is fearful of hell; he's not working because someone is holding the law over him. He's not serving God because someone is about to lay the whip to his bare back. He is serving God and working and laboring in the kingdom of God. He is walking in a path of holiness because he wants to, he loves to and he longs to please his Lord.

I contend, with the apostle Paul that the most generous, obedient, loving, faithful, honest and kindest people in this world are not legalists and Pharisees or religionists. These people are not people working their way to heaven. Usually, these are the meanest people on earth. I'm talking about the kindest, most generous and gracious people in this world are those who believe that salvation is by grace alone. They are the most honest, kindest, warmest and generous people on earth. They believe that salvation is by the grace and mercy of Almighty God in Jesus Christ alone, plus nothing and minus nothing. They are motivated to works of faith and labors of love. This is not out of law or duty or for reward. They are solely, totally and completely motivated because they love the Son of God. That is their whole motive and the very foundation and basis of everything they do, say and give. Their message is, saved by grace alone, and labor by love alone. They are saved by grace alone, and labor by love alone. This is not by rules, and not by laws, but by love.

You see; my friend, true religion is not a shell that has a heart. True religion is not a veneer; it is a Spirit. True religion and salvation is a heart work. By the power of God a person is made a new creature in Jesus Christ and has a change in attitude. He has a change in mind. This is not in order to be saved but because he has been saved. This is not in order to be accepted. That change is not to be accepted of God. That change is wrought in his mind and heart and soul because he has been accepted of God. "*We love Him because He first loved us.*" This is not in order to merit His love. "*We love Him because He first loved us.*"

Now then, come down to Galatians 6:1. Paul picks up this theme; he has gone through this whole Book, contending for salvation is by grace alone. He is holding up the banner of the Lord Jesus Christ and His redemptive mercy, Christ alone. He defends the fact that true believers will labor, work and honor God in their lives because they love Him. They are not motivated by any other reason. He picks it up in Chapter 6 and deals with the believer's attitude and conduct in several cases. Stay with me; I am going to give you a few of these.

In verse 1: The apostle gives us the attitude of the believer toward others, especially the weak. He says in verse 1 of Galatians 6, *“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, you which are spiritual, (mature) restore such a one in the Spirit of meekness, considering thyself less thyself also be tempted.”* Watch this attitude! The Holy Spirit dwells in Christ’s redeemed children. That’s true, is it not? You know that it is. They do desire to honor God, to walk in righteousness, and they desire to bring glory to their Lord. That is their desire. Paul said, *“I delight in the law after the inward man.”*

Paul says, I find another problem, *“The things I would do, I don’t do; the things I would not do; I do.”* Children of God are still human. Children of God still reside in a body of flesh. The motions of sin and the flesh are real; they are subject to sin and they are subject to failure. All of them are and you are and I am and everyone else is who is a believer. Paul said, “therefore, if a brother or a sister falls into sin, whether it be a sin of spirit, or attitude, conduct, action or whatever, what are you going to do?” Are you going to exclude them, wound them, avoid them, or criticize them? The answer is no; but restore them, receive them, recover them, and help them. Try to be a brother, be a friend, and sympathize with them. Why?

Well, the foundation is two-fold. God forgave you and that is the first reason. *“Be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God for Christ’s sake forgave you.”* You know something about forgiveness, so you show it. You know something about mercy, so you give it. You know something about love, so you show it. That is the first reason.

The second reason is this: considering yourself, watch out now! You might be tempted to do the same thing or to say the same thing. There is the two-fold foundation for recovering and restoring those that are weak and those that are frail. God showed mercy to us and because we might need it a whole lot more tomorrow.

All right, look at verse 2: *“Bear one another’s burdens.”* What does burden mean? We’re to bear one another’s faults; bear one another’s weaknesses, bear one another’s infirmities, and bear one another’s failures; we all have them. *“True love beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things and so fulfill the royal law of King Jesus.”*

Do you see that, *“So fulfill the law of Christ?”*

What is the law of Christ? He said, *“This is My commandment that you love one another as I love you.”* You don’t need a rule written on the church wall to carry out this sort of attitude do you? This sort of attitude is born in the heart. It is not written on paper or on tablets of stone, or church walls, saying, “Do this now and we’ll be covenant to do this,

that and the other.” My answer is, bologna! This attitude has to be in your heart. When it is in your heart; you won’t need it on that wall. If it ever gets in your heart, you can take it off the wall. That is exactly right and that is the right attitude toward others.

Notice verses 3 and 4: Here is our attitude toward ourselves. In the last part of verse 2, it says, *“Considering yourselves.”* What are we going to come up with when we consider ourselves? *“If a man thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing; he is deceived.”*

I know that in Christ, believers are justified; they are something in Christ. In Christ we are sanctified, we are righteous, we are holy and we are unblameable, before God, in Christ. In ourselves, do you know what we are? We are nothing, absolutely nothing. Considering ourselves, we are nothing. Paul said, *“I’m not one wit behind the chief apostle in office, though I be nothing.”* He said, *“I am less than all the least of all the saints.”* He said, *“I am the chief of sinners.”*

Why would a man think of himself to be something? *“If a man think himself to be something; he is nothing.”* Why would he think himself to be something? Why would he make that statement found in Isaiah; *“Stand by thyself, don’t come near me, I am holier than thou.”* God says, *“That is smoke in my nose.”*

The only reason why a man would think himself to be something, when he is nothing, is that he is comparing himself to the fallen brother. That is what he is doing. He is comparing himself to the fallen brother. He is like the Pharisee in the temple who said, *“I’m not like that Publican.”* I will tell you what the Pharisee needed to do; he needed to turn his eyes toward heaven instead of turning his head toward that Publican.

That is what our Lord is saying here; *“If a brother be overtaken in a fault; restore him, considering yourself unless you be tempted.”* You may think, as you see him fall, that you are not capable of falling. If you think seeing him down in the dust that you are any better, you are comparing yourself with him. You are nothing and you are deceived. You are a deceived man.

In verse 4, it says; *“Let a man prove his life and prove his work”* in the light of God’s Holiness, and don’t compare yourself with somebody else. You compare yourself with God. If you are comparing yourself with Almighty God, you can see a little bit of grace and a little bit of mercy, love and growth. You can rejoice in that God has given it to you and not by comparing yourself with somebody else. He said, *“When we compare ourselves with ourselves, we are not wise, we are fools.”* That is our attitude toward others. This attitude should be one of compassion, tenderness, kindness and forgiveness. Our attitude toward ourselves; we’re nothing!

All right, look at verse 6: Listen to me for a few moments, very carefully. I want to keep the right attitude here and the right spirit. I want to speak kindly. This is a very important point. I want you to look at our attitude toward those who labor in the gospel. Look at verse 6, *“Let him that is taught in the Word communicate, (give or assist) him that teacheth the Word in all things.”*

In other words, if you have a faithful pastor who studies and who labors and preaches, and who teaches you the Word of God and you support him, take care of his material needs. That is what that is saying. Say that you are taught in the Word and you come to know Christ under a man’s ministry. If he has communicated to you the things of God, studied, prepared and brought you the truth of the gospel, then you support him. You render unto him those natural material things that he has need of. Churches should support faithful pastors. Those that preach the gospel are to live by the gospel.

No man goes to war at his own expense. *“One does not muzzle an ox that treads out his corn, does he?”* You take for example; I am here preaching this message. This message is being preached in the TV Studios of Channel 13 and is being prepared. I begin work on these messages each morning at 7:00. I work all day long on these messages to preach to you tonight, to teach you the Word of God.

Yesterday, I preached three times on Sunday. I worked all day Saturday and Friday, the day before, preparing to teach our people verse by verse, the Word of God. I’ve written commentaries from Romans 1, clear through the last verse of Jude. I’ve written 90 lessons and Bible illustrations from the Old Testament, and all the Book of John, verse by verse. I’ve done this to teach our people.

I am talking about those faithful pastors, faithful preachers and faithful teachers that labor in the Word of God and teach God’s people. I’m not talking about false prophets and shysters and con men and merchandisers of souls, hucksters, phonies and parasites. I’m not talking about those people. He said, *“Let him that is taught in the Word, be generous and communicate, give and assist that person who teaches you the Word of God.”*

Now, I know this; television is the worst place in the world for this. There are so many con men. I see them; they are phonies and parasites that are mistreating God’s people. They are majoring on finances, millions, and majoring on money. They are majoring on buying and selling and pleading with you to send them your money. They want you to make out a check every month. They say, *“Join this club, join that club, join the other*

club.” Some of these programs preach 10 minutes and beg for 20 minutes. This is evil! God is not in that.

Let me tell you something. I have been on this station 17 years. I mentioned a few moments ago that this is my number 776th program. We have never asked you for one dime. We have never had a telethon; I’ve never given away a TV offering, number 427 and charged you twice what it was worth. I send you tapes for \$2.00 and we can’t even put them out for that.

God will supply our needs. God will meet our needs. If God is in a preacher’s ministry and in his message, God will supply his needs. We’ve never had to ask for a thing. God’s people give because they want to. You stop giving to those parasites and con men and financial wizards. All you are doing is adding to their luxurious living. Just stop doing it!

Don’t be motivated by all these threats and promises of reward and coercion. God is not going to reward you because you send some money to a TV evangelist. You are blessed and taught in the Word of God. God has taught you His truth through a faithful preacher. Help him; give to him and keep him preaching the gospel. Make sure and take care of His material needs.

Don’t pay any attention to these money raisers and telethons. They are always begging, and begging. God is not a beggar; He is a King! My God said this; *“If I were hungry, I wouldn’t ask you.”*

When the rich kings tried to make Abraham rich; he wouldn’t take a dime from them. He said, *“I’ve lifted my hand to God and He will meet my need.”* If a man is a true preacher, he is not going to beg. He is not going to say, “This is a work of faith and if you don’t send some money in, we are going to go off the air.”

My friend, I love you but we’re not going off the air until God puts us off the air. We don’t need one dime from one person in this world. We are not going to sell anything, beg, or carry on a telethon. That is evil and I am telling you, stop giving to these people; you are just making them rich. They have no heart and they have no conscience. If they were really God’s preachers, they wouldn’t mention it, they would pray about the matter and God would supply the need. I’m telling the truth!

You are foolish to send your social security checks when you can’t afford it. Don’t send it to them; they are crooks! If a man preaches the gospel and preaches the Word of God

and he is God's man, God will supply his needs. He won't beg from anybody. That's just so! It may be hard, but it is true.

Our attitude towards those people ought to be to cut them off. Our attitude toward that true pastor that you have and that true, loving teacher and guide in the Word of God needs to be taken care of by you. You take care of that local church and God will meet the need.

Notice, in verse 9, our attitude toward God's providence and the results. He said, in verse 9; *"Let's not be weary in well-doing. In due season we will reap if we won't be discouraged, if we won't quit."* Don't grow weary in well doing.

I know some of you help others. You cook for others and you clean up people's houses. You give to the church and sometimes you get weary. I will tell you why. Some of it is ingratitude; some folks just don't seem to be thankful. Don't quit, now. Sometimes you get disappointed in people. I've been pastor over there in Ashland for 39 years. We have people come to the church. We buy groceries, we buy medicine, we pay rent, and we pay utility bills. I rarely ever get a thank you note. Rarely, does anyone ever call and say thank you. I'm not going to quit.

You get disappointed in people. You get criticism. They will say, "What have you done for me lately?" There is lack of cooperation, and so little results; do not quit. He said, *"Don't quit, and don't be weary in well doing."* Don't be disappointed; don't faint. He said, *"You'll reap in due season."*

You see; my friend, God knows what you are doing. God knows what you are giving. God knows how you are serving. God knows your heart. You're not doing it for other people's praise, anyway. You are doing it because you love Him. You are doing it *"As unto the Lord."*

You see; when you help somebody, you are helping him or her. They are reaping the benefit. You are doing it because you love God. You are doing it because you are His child. You are doing it because you are His ambassador. So, don't quit, don't faint and don't grow weary; just keep on.

Now listen, don't send what you don't have. Don't give what you don't have. Don't promise what you don't have. *"As you have opportunity, do good to all men especially those of the household of faith."* God never intended people to give what they don't have. Don't promise what you are going to give next year. You don't know where you

are going to be next year or what you are going to have. Do what you can with what God has given you right now. That's it!