



## **CHRISTIANS SHOULD BEAR THE BURDENS OF OTHERS**

**Burden = 1. Something that is carried 2. Duty, responsibility (forced to bear the burden of caring for her aging parents) 3. Something oppressive or worrisome.**

Synonyms: hardship, concerns, affliction, sorrows, trial one goes through.

Burden = Urban dictionary: something that weighs you down.

*Galatians 6:1-5, "Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. <sup>4</sup> Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, <sup>5</sup> for each one should carry their own load."*

**In any Christian society, there are problems that will arise; even within the church. Paul was well aware of this.**

- **The best of men slip up (sin).**
  - **That does not mean, however, that sin is not to be challenged with the Word.**
  - **The Word and the Holy Spirit are the mighty duo working together to convict and convince others to change, to make amends, to give into the better side of life.**
  - **Christians who let sin or sins go on in another Christian's life is not a friend (a friend challenges their friends not to go on in their self-indulged sins).**
  - **The danger of those who are really trying to live the Christian life is that they are apt to judge the sins of others harshly and without mercy and grace.**
- ✓ **There is an element of hardness in many a good man. There are many good people to whom you could not go and sob out a story of failure and defeat; they would probably be unsympathetic.**

- ✓ **Paul says that, if a man does make a slip and sin, the real Christian duty is to get him on his feet again, stress repentance for the sin committed, and gently correct the wrong.**

- *The word Paul uses for to “correct” or “restore” is used for executing a repair or the idea for the work of a surgeon in removing some growth from a man's body...or in a doctor setting a broken limb.*
- *The whole atmosphere of the word lays the stress not on punishment but on cure;*
- *Paul goes on to say that when we see a man fall into a fault or sin we do well to say, "There but for the grace of God go I."*

**Paul goes on to rebuke conceit and gives a recipe whereby it may well be avoided. We are to compare our achievement not with the work of our neighbors but with what our best would have been (there is that “spirit of excellence”). When we do that, there can never be any cause for conceit.**

**Twice in this passage Paul speaks about bearing burdens.**

1. *There is a kind of burden which comes to a man and challenges him to fulfill the words of Christ...and that is to help everyone who has a burden to carry.*
2. *There is also a burden which a man must bear himself. There is a duty which none can do for us and a task for which we must be personally responsible.*

**“KEEPING IT UP” IN LIEU OF “GIVING UP”**

**Galatians 6:6-10**, *“Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor. <sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. <sup>8</sup> Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup> Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”*

**Here Paul becomes intensely practical.**

- ***The Christian Church had its teachers.***

- **Paul says, "If a man is teaching you the eternal truths, the least you can do is share with him such material things as you possess." (Early Christian churches were more apt to share their resources).**
- **He insists that life holds the scales with an even balance. If a man allows the lower side of his nature to dominate him, in the end he can expect nothing but a harvest of trouble. But if he keeps on walking the high way (better way) and doing the right thing, in the end God will repay.**
- **Christianity never took the threat out of life. The truth is that God can and does forgive men for their sins...but not even he can wipe out the consequence of sin.**
  - ✓ *If a man sins against his body, sooner or later he will pay in ruined health—even if he is forgiven.*
  - ✓ *If a man sins against his loved ones, sooner or later hearts will be broken even if he is forgiven. John B. Gough, the great temperance orator, who had lived a reckless early life, used to declare in warning, "The scars remain."*
    - *There is a moral law in the universe. If a man breaks it he may be forgiven, but, nonetheless, he breaks it at his peril.*

**Paul finishes by reminding his Christian friends that sometimes the duty of generosity may be irritating and even disgusting, but swallow the bad taste and help a brother in need if you are able.**

### **THE CLOSING WORDS LEAVES AN OPEN DOOR**

*Galatians 6:11-18, "I will write these closing words in my own handwriting. See how large I have to make the letters! <sup>12</sup> Those teachers of yours who are trying to convince you to be circumcised are doing it for just one reason: so that they can be popular and avoid the persecution they would get if they admitted that the cross of Christ alone can save. <sup>13</sup> And even those teachers who submit to circumcision don't try to keep the other Jewish laws; but they want you to be circumcised in order that they can boast that you are their disciples. <sup>14</sup> As for me, God forbid that I should boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of that cross, my interest in all the attractive things of the world was killed long ago, and the world's interest in me is also long dead. <sup>15</sup> It doesn't make any difference now whether we have been circumcised or not; what counts is whether we really have been changed into new and different people. <sup>16</sup> May God's mercy and peace be upon all of you who live by this principle and upon those everywhere who are really God's own. <sup>17</sup> From now on please don't argue with me about these things, for I carry on my body the scars of the whippings and wounds from Jesus' enemies that mark me as his slave. <sup>18</sup> Dear brothers, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Sincerely, Paul" (NLB).*

**Ordinarily Paul added only his signature to the letter which the scribe wrote to his dictation; but in this case he emphasizes that he took the pen in his hand himself.**

***The large letters may be due to three things:***

- 1. This paragraph may be written large because of its importance, as if it were printed in heavy type.**
- 2. It may be written large because it was not normal for Paul to wield a pen unless he was stressing a blessing to an individual of group...or being critical of one's actions.**
- 3. It may be that Paul's eyes were weak and all he could produce was the large sprawling handwriting of a man who can hardly see.**

***He comes back to the center of the matter.***

***Those who wanted the Galatians to get themselves circumcised did so for three reasons.***

- 1. It would save them from persecution. The Romans recognized the Jewish religion and officially allowed Jews to practice it. Circumcision was the unanswerable mark of a Jew; and so these people saw in it as a passport to safety should persecution arise. Circumcision would keep them safe from the hatred of the Jews and the law of Rome alike.*
- 2. By being circumcised and by keeping the rules and regulations of the law, they were trying to put on a show that would win the approval of God. Paul, of course, knew nothing that man could do could win salvation; one must trust the grace of God through Jesus' blood (the only cure for sin).*
- 3. Those who desired the Galatians to be circumcised did not themselves keep all the law. No man could. But they wanted to boast about the Galatians as their latest trophies. They wanted to glory in their power over people whom they had reduced to their own legalistic slavery. So Paul once again states that circumcision and uncircumcision do not matter; what does matter is that act of faith in Christ which opens a new life to a man.*

**"I bear," said Paul, "the brands of Jesus in my body." Most likely what Paul means is that the scars of the things he had suffered for Christ are the brands which show him to be Christ's witness.**

**After the storm and stress and intensity of the letter comes the peace of the benediction. Paul has argued and rebuked and corrected... but his last word is GRACE, for him the only word that really mattered.**

**THE GRACE AND PEACE OF GOD (JESUS)...THE OPEN DOOR**