

LOSING MY RELIGION "GOSPEL OF SECOND CHANCES" 6:1-10

This Week's Core Competency

Giving Away My Life – I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes. Romans 12:1 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.*

The gist of Giving Away My Life is summed up nicely by Paul in Galatians 6:10, "As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." After all, that's what Jesus did, and are we not called to walk in his steps? Peter told Cornelius in Acts 10:37-38: "You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around *doing good* and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him." And Jesus told his disciples in the Sermon on the Mount: "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, *do good* to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you" (Lk 6:27).

Furthermore, Paul's list of vices or "acts of the sinful nature" in Galatians 5:19-21 and virtues or "fruit of the Spirit" in 5:22-23, in and of themselves, amount to doing evil and doing good. According to the apostle, the sinful nature shows itself in

It is in concrete situations, rather than in emotional highs, that the reality of the Holy Spirit in their lives is demonstrated.

— James Montgomery Boice

"immoral, filthy, and indecent actions; in worship of idols and witchcraft. People become enemies and they fight; they become jealous, angry, and ambitious. They separate into parties and groups; they are envious, get drunk, have orgies, and do other things like these," whereas the Spirit produces "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control. There is no law against such things as these" (GNT).

On the *contrast* between "the *works* of the flesh" and "the *fruit* of the Spirit," one commentator writes: "The term 'works' (*erga*) already has definite overtones in this letter. It refers to what man can do, which, in the case of the works of the law (2:16, 3:2, 5, 10), has already been shown to be inadequate. The fruit of the Spirit, on the other hand, suggest that which is a natural product of the Spirit rather than of man, made possible by the living relationship between the Christian and God (cf. 2:20; John 15:1-17). The singular form stresses that these qualities are a unity, like a bunch of grapes instead of separate pieces of fruit, and also that they are all to be found in all Christians. In this they differ from the 'gifts' of the Spirit, which are given one by one to different people as the church has need (1 Cor 12). The nine virtues that are the Spirit's fruit hardly need classification, though they seem to fall into three categories of three each. The first three appear to 'comprise Christian habits of mind in their more general aspect,' as Lightfoot notes. Their primary direction is God-ward. The second set primarily concerns the Christian in his relationship to others and are social virtues. The last three concern the Christian as he is to be in himself" (James Montgomery Boice, "Galatians," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, 10:498).

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While believers who "live by the Spirit" are to "keep in step with the Spirit" (5:25) by doing good, doing good may be easier said than done. The same author acknowledges what we all know: "It is easy to talk about the fruit of the Spirit while doing very little about it. So Christians need to learn that it is in concrete situations, rather than in emotional highs, that the reality of the Holy Spirit in their lives is demonstrated" (501). And then he goes on to explain: "What does it mean to live a life characterized by love, joy, peace, patience, and the other virtues? To those who might prefer a mystical experience or a flight of fancy at this point it comes as a shock to find Paul returning at once to the most down-to-earth subject—personal relationships (6:1-5) and the use of money (6:6-10)—and to find him measuring spirituality by action in these areas.

day 1 ENCOUNTER – read God's word to put yourself in touch with him.

Galatians 6:1-10

1 Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. 2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. 3 If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, 5 for each one should carry his own load.

6 Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor.

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Cf., another translation

1 My friends, if someone is caught in any kind of wrongdoing, those of you who are spiritual should set him right; but you must do it in a gentle way. And keep an eye on yourselves, so that you will not be tempted, too. 2 Help carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will obey the law of Christ. 3 If you think you are something when you really are nothing, you are only deceiving yourself. 4 You should each judge your own conduct. If it is good, then you can be proud of what you yourself have done, without having to compare it with what someone else has done. 5 For each of you have to carry your own load.

6 If you are being taught the Christian message, you should share all the good things you have with your teacher.

7 Do not deceive yourselves; no one makes a fool of God. You will reap exactly what you plant. 8 If you plant in the field of your natural desires, from it you will gather the harvest of death; if you plant in the field of the Spirit, from the Spirit you will gather the harvest of eternal life. 9 So let us not become tired of doing good; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest. 10 So then, as often as we have the chance, we should do good to everyone, and especially to those who belong to our family in the faith. (GNT)

EXAMINE – what the passage says before you decide what it means.

- * Circle "caught" in v. 1.
- * Bracket "who are spiritual" in v. 1.
- * Circle "restore" in v. 1.
- * Box "but" indicating *contrast* in v. 1.
- * Circle "carry" in v. 2.
- * Bracket "law of Christ" in v. 2.

- * Circle "test" in v. 4.
- * Circle "take pride" v. 4.
- * Circle "carry" in v. 5.
- * Bracket "share all good things" in v. 6.
- * Underline "sinful nature" in v. 8.
- * Box "therefore" indicating *result* in v. 10.

day 2

EXPLORE – the answer to these questions to better understand what the passage means.

Consult the explanation of the message and the notes to follow if you need help.

1. Put what "caught in a sin" means in your own words.
2. Explain the *contrast* in verse 2.
3. Define "the law of Christ" and explain how it's fulfilled.
4. What have verses 3-5 got to do with fulfilling the law of Christ?
5. Doesn't Paul contradict in verse 5 what he says in verse 2? Explain.
6. Put what "share all good things" means in your own words.
7. What has verse 7 got to do with verse 6?
8. Give one example of sowing to please the sinful nature and one example of sowing to please the Spirit.
9. Paul warns his readers to "not grow weary in doing good." Why?
10. **Discussion:** Paul refers to reaping what we sow at the proper time. When is that?

day 3

EXAMINE – an explanation of the message to better understand the meaning of the passage.

By way of introduction to Galatians 6:1-10, one commentator writes: "Being free from the Mosaic Law does not mean being free from responsibility. In this section, Paul explained various responsibilities that Christians have to one another, to clarify the will of God for his readers. Manifesting the fruit of the Spirit is not a mystical experience. Paul said spirituality is evident in personal relationships (vv. 1-5) and in the use of money (vv. 6-10)" (Thomas L. Constable, "Notes on Galatians," 2015 ed., 81, www.soncilight.com). Another clarifies that these "responsibilities" mirror the virtues that the Spirit produces in us. He writes: "They represent Paul's desire to give concrete instructions, to spell out for the Galatians in practical terms what it means to 'walk in the Spirit.' Many of these maxims function as practical illustrations of the ingredients of 'the fruit of the Spirit'—e.g. [*prautes*, gentleness] (6.2), [*enkrateia*, self control] (5.26; 6.4), [*makrothumia*, patience] (6.9-10), and [*agathosune*, goodness] (6.6, 10)—and thus serve to 'earth' these abstract qualities in detailed moral instruction" (J. M. G. Barclay, *Obedying the Truth*, 167). Simply stated, in 6:1-10, Paul makes obvious what he means by what he says in 5:16, 25: "live by the Spirit" and "keep in step with the Spirit."

A number of virtues from Paul's list found in 5:22-23 appear in his instructions to the Galatians regarding their relationships to one another in 6:1-5. In verse 1, Paul tells them to set an errant brother or sister back on the right track and to do it with gentleness. Obviously, doing so is an expression of love and gentleness. In the same verse he warns, "But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted," which expresses self-control and suggests that no one is above temptation. In verse 2, he tells them to help one another with those burdens in life that are too heavy for any person to bear alone. Expressing love and kindness in that way fulfills "the law of Christ."

Knowing that obedience will not come easy, Paul warns against two things that will prevent the Galatians from following his instructions: overconfidence and misguided pride. "If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing," he says, "he deceives himself." No wonder, in a

different place he writes, "Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought but rather think of yourself with sober judgment in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you" (Ro 12:3). Christians who see a brother or sister "caught in sin" and confidently say, "I would never do that" are setting themselves up for a fall.

Instead, "Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself," Paul says, "without comparing himself to somebody else." Comparing ourselves to others can end badly in two ways. One author writes: "This can be harmful in a positive sense ('I am doing better than they are'—the very conceit Paul has just warned against)" (Boice, 502). Remember the Pharisee's prayer? "God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess" (Lk 18:11). We love comparisons that put us in a favorable light! It can also be harmful "in a negative sense ('I am unable to do anything; everyone else is much better!')" (502). A strong dose of peace and goodness is the cure for such wrongheadedness.

A number of other virtues from Paul's list appear in his instructions regarding their use of money in 6:6-10. First, he tells them their teachers deserve to be compensated. As one writer puts it: "The teacher relieves the ignorance of the pupil; the pupil should relieve the teacher of concern for his subsistence" (F. F. Bruce, *The Epistle to the Galatians*, NIGNT, 263). The law of sowing and reaping confirms the wisdom in that act of love and kindness. "If a person selfishly withholds what he has, he will not see God multiply it and bless him with it. If he follows the prompting of his sinful nature in his investments ('sows to his own flesh'), he will 'reap' death ('corruption'), but if he follows ('sows to') 'the Spirit,' he will 'reap eternal life.' This is not saying he will necessarily die, but that his sowing will yield a disappointing harvest. Neither is it saying that he can earn justification. It is saying that his continuous, abundant, and Spirit motivated sowing will yield the best harvest. Our harvest will suffer if we 'grow weary' and stop sowing. Remember that the context of this section is the support of Christian workers, though these principles certainly

have wider application" (Constable, 84). Paul's words echo the words of Jesus: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal (i.e., sow to please the sinful nature). But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,

where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal" (i.e., sow to please the Spirit).

The Message of the Passage

Living by the Spirit entails manifesting the fruit of the Spirit in concrete ways that boil down to doing good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

day **EMBRACE** – how God spoke to you in his word.

Our desire is to not be merely hearers of the word, but doers of the word as James suggests in James 1:22. Try some of the challenges below to apply what you have learned this week.

- **Journal your answers to the following *living* questions:**

–How is God making himself known to you?

–How does God want to change you?

–How is God calling you to change your world?

notes STUDY – the commentaries to answer the questions.

v. 1 **caught** Cf., "overtaken" (AV, RV, RSV, NKJV); "detected" (NRSV); "discovered" (NET); "caught" (NASB, ESV, NIV, NEB mg.). "The precise force of [*prolempithe*] is uncertain: it may mean that he finds himself inadvertently involved in some wrongdoing, or that he is detected in it by someone else. The wrongdoing may fall under the heading of one of the 'works of the flesh' (5:19-21); it will certainly be inconsistent with the fruit of the Spirit" (F. F. Bruce, *The Epistle to the Galatians*, NIGNT, 260). "It is probably to be understood in the sense of being surprised by sin rather than being detected in it; the latter sense appears to be not well attested and is not required by the context" (Ronald Y. K. Fung, *The Epistle to the Galatians*, NICNT, 284).

v. 1 **sin** "NEB 'do something wrong . . . on a sudden impulse' captures the probable meaning of the Greek verb, which speaks not of intentional sin but of inadvertent wrongdoing" (284).

v. 1 **who are spiritual** "Is Paul speaking ironically or addressing a particular group of Galatian Christians, i.e., those who are keeping in step with the Spirit? Paul has repeatedly spoken elsewhere in Galatians of all Christians as being possessed by and in possession of God's Spirit (cf. 3:2-5, 14; 4:6, 29; 5:5, 16-18, 22-23, 25; 6:8). There is, therefore, no reason to doubt and abundant reason to believe that Paul here uses this designation with approval in speaking about all his converts in Galatia. They are, despite their legal and libertine enticements, 'the true spirituals' simply because by being 'in Christ' they have become the recipients of God's Spirit. So by reminding his converts of their status as [*pneumatikoi*] Paul calls on them to live up to that status" (Richard N. Longenecker, *Word Biblical Commentary*, vol. 41, *Galatians*, 273).

v. 1 **restore** Cf., "set him right" (GNT); "help that person back onto the right path" (NLT). "The Greek verb means 'to make perfect' or 'to equip' (Heb. 13:21, cf. AV, RV, NEB with RSV, NASB, NIV); it can refer to restoration of something to its original condition, for instance, fishing nets (Mt. 4:21; Mk. 1:19) or especially a fractured or dislocated bone" (Fung, 286). "Here in Gal 6:1 it is evidently used in an ethical sense to mean 'restore' to a former good state" (Longenecker, 273).

v. 2 **carry . . . burdens** Cf., "bear one another's oppressive burdens" (274). The Greek word translated "burdens" is bare, "which means 'heavy burdens'—those that are more than a man should carry" (Boice, 10:502). "Since 'the law of Christ' (v. 2b) entails much more than the mutual bearing of the burdens of temptation and sin, the 'heavy loads' are better understood, more comprehensively, of all kinds of weakness (cf. Rom. 15:1), suffering, and pain—in short, any and every load that is hard to bear" (Fung, 287).

v. 2 **law of Christ** "The 'law of Christ' is not essentially different from the commandment of love to one's neighbor (quoted in 5:14), in which 'the whole law' is comprehended" (Bruce, 261). "The phrase occurs only here in the entire NT, although a similar expression 'under the law of Christ' (*ennomos Christou*) is used in 1 Cor. 9:21 . . . The most common interpretation may well be the correct one: 'the law of Christ' is the commandment of love, first promulgated by Moses (Lev. 19:18) and considered by Jesus to be the greatest of the commandments which speak of human relationships (Mt. 22:36-40), given by him to his disciples as 'a new commandment' (Jn. 13:34; 15:12; 1 Jn. 3:23), and exemplified in his own life" (Fung, 288).

v. 4 **test** Cf., "examine" (NASB, HCSB, GNT, NET, NEB); "pay careful attention" (NLT).

v. 4 **take pride** "If a person is to take pride in anything at all, he should find his 'reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another' (NASB). 'Whoever 'imagines himself to be somebody, when he is nothing' will be likely to compare himself with the brother who has been caught in some trespass and thus find his ground of boasting 'in regard to another'—particularly in regard to another's weakness (cf. the Pharisee's 'thanksgiving' in Lk. 18:11). Paul encourages each person, however, to find his ground of boasting 'in regard to himself alone.' That is, in his own conduct and performance; 'then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else' (NIV)" (Fung, 290-91).

v. 5 **carry . . . load** "There is no contradiction between this verse and v.2, as KJV seems to suggest, for different words are used for what one is to bear . . . The word in this verse is *phortion*, a common term for a man's 'pack.' Each Christian has his own work to do, so let him take pride in how he does it" (Boice, 502).

v. 6 **share . . . things** "While it is true that the section [vv. 6-10] as a whole goes beyond the use of money, nevertheless, at least three factors indicate that Paul was thinking primarily of money as he wrote it" (Boice, 503). "The phrase 'in all good things' is a rather general expression that may include spiritual benefits as well as material sustenance, but it certainly cannot be understood apart from material sustenance—probably more directly financial support" (Longenecker, 279). "This is another way of stating the principle that 'the labourer deserves his wages' (Lk. 10:7; 1 Tim. 5:18; cf. Mt. 10:10) or as Paul elsewhere paraphrases those words of Jesus, 'those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel' (1 Cor. 9:14)" (Bruce, 263).

Family Time

Parents, our summer series in *PantegoKids* is called **True or False?** Like the adults, we will be studying the book of Galatians to discover how to live out true faith.

Each day when I walk out my front door I get to experience a beautiful sight. My Brazilian neighbor across the street is a master gardener. Her flowerbeds are full of color. She has a large shrub near the curb that smells wonderful. The aroma of the flowering plant drifts down the street. I often open the windows when it's in bloom so the scent will come inside. Unfortunately, she does not get the same privilege when she walks out her front door. Although my yard is well-kept, it is simply green. There are no shades of red and pink and yellow and purple like hers. One day I complained to her about the lack of color in my yard. "It's an easy fix," she said, "You have to plant." Sometimes I want good thing to sprout up in my life without the labor of actually sowing the seeds. Do I want God's Word to be quick on my tongue? Then I must spend time cultivating it in my heart. Do I want to reflect the character of Christ to those I come in contact with? Then I need to be spending time with Him and apply the principles He teaches me. It's a timeless truth. We always reap what we sow. What am I sowing into my life? It will be obvious by the harvest.

What Does The Bible Say

Weekly Verse: Read Gal 6:1-10

1. Fill in the blanks. "A man _____ what he _____ "
(v. 7)
2. What happens if we don't give up doing good?
3. To whom are we especially to do good?

What Do You Think

Think about your summer. What are some good things you sowed in your life? Did you memorize the memory verse? Did you complete the Discipleship Challenge? Did you serve somewhere? Did you show someone kindness or compassion? List those things and know that you will see fruit from them!

What R U Going To Do

Keep a Sowing/Reaping Journal. Each time you do something kind, or obey your parents or pray about something, write it down. What was the result? Write that down too. We don't always see the harvest from what we have sown but it's a blessing when we do!

MEMORY TIME

Post the kid-friendly Core Competency and the Memory Verse throughout the house.

Core Comp

Memory Verse

KIDPIX COUPON

I memorized CC _____ and Verse _____. Family completed **Say** _____ **Think** _____ **Do** _____

Child's name _____ Grade _____ Parent's signature _____

Earn tokens by completing the Bible study portion of this page.
Questions: Kids@pantego.org

30 CORE COMPETENCIES

10 CORE BELIEFS

Trinity 2 Corinthians 13:14

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation By Grace Ephesians 2:8-9

I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible 2 Timothy 3:16-17

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God Psalm 121:1-2

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ John 1:12

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church Ephesians 4:15-16

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity John 3:16

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion Psalm 82:3-4

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity John 14:1-4

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship 1 Timothy 6:17-19

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

10 CORE PRACTICES

Worship Psalm 95:1-7

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer Psalm 66:16-20

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study Hebrews 4:12

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness Matthew 6:33

I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts Romans 12:4-6

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

Biblical Community Acts 2:44-47

I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, others' lives, and in the world.

Giving Away My Time Colossians 3:17

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Money

2 Corinthians 8:7

I give away my money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith Ephesians

6:19-20

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life Romans 12:1

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 CORE VIRTUES

Joy John 15:11

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace Philippians 4:6-7

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, myself, and others.

Faithfulness Proverbs 3:3-4

I have established a good name with God and with others based on my long-term loyalty to those relationships.

Self-Control Titus 2:11-13

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility Philippians 2:3, 4

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love 1 John 4:10-12

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience Proverbs 14:29

I take a long time to overheat and endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness 1 Thess. 5:15

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness Philippians 4:5

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope Hebrews 6:19-20

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ.

About the Authors

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Wendy Hollabaugh (B.S.W. University of Texas at Arlington) is the Children's Minister at Pantego Bible Church. Wendy has over ten years of experience in Children's Ministry. She has a passion for leading families to connect with God and each other. She enjoys creating compelling environments where kids fall in love with God and His Truth. Wendy and her husband, Greg, are also involved in their own personal youth ministry as they are training their three teenagers, Hannah, Aaron and Noah.



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The mission of THE SCROLLS is to help you develop the beliefs, practices, and virtues of a follower of Jesus Christ called The 30 Core Competencies through your own active reading of the Bible. Send any questions or comments you may have about this lesson to Tom Bulick. His e-mail address is tbulick@pantego.org.