

## Galatians 6 Summarized

### Sentences

6:1, brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

6:2-3, bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

6:4-5, but let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each one shall bear his own load.

6:6, let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.

6:7-8, do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

6:9-10, and let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

6:11, see with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!

6:12-13, as many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these *would* compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.

6:14-15, but God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

6:16, and as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

6:17, from now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

6:18, brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen.

### Paragraphs

6:1-5, [Since the freedom Christ gave them is for serving each other instead of living in sin and since they no longer have the Law as a guardrail, Paul continues to guide them on how to serve one another and avoid sin] they cannot ignore a brother struggling with sin. They must gently help restore them being careful not to fall into temptation themselves. It is in bearing each other's burdens like this that they'll fulfill their command to be Christ-like. If they think it's beneath them to help a sinning brother, they're self-deceived. If they truly want to be proud of themselves, it's not by comparing themselves to a sinning/failing brother. It's by asking, "Have I done everything God put in front of me?" because God's going to hold them responsible for the load He gave them to carry.

6:6-10, part of that load is to support those who teach us God's Word. We mustn't fool ourselves. God will reward or punish according to what we sow: if we live in sin through our flesh, we'll reap corruption. If we live godly lives through the Spirit, we'll reap the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, etc. Thus, we must continue doing good because God will reward our persistence. So at every turn, we must do good to all, especially fellow Christians.

6:11-15, Paul decides to close the letter with his own hand. He reveals the real motive behind the legalists urging them to get circumcised. The legalists aren't driven by the Law, since they don't even keep it themselves. They're doing it to boast in the number of foreskins they can collect in order to avoid persecution. But unlike them, Paul will only boast in what the Cross of Christ has done for him, namely, freed him from the world's bondage [epitomized by the legalists] by making him a new creation.

6:16-18, finally, Paul wishes peace and mercy on all Jews and Gentiles who walk according to their new position/creation in Christ. And he warns the legalists not to disparage him [by speaking falsely of him]. Unlike them, he is willing to suffer persecution for the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ and he's got the scars to prove it. He closes the letter with a desire that the grace of Jesus Christ will be with the Galatians.

### Whole Chapter

[Since the freedom Christ gave them is for serving each other instead of living in sin and since they no longer have the Law as a guardrail, Paul continues to guide them on how to serve one another and avoid sin] they can't ignore a brother struggling with sin; they must help restore him. This is being Christ-like and bearing each other's burdens. Thus, seeing yourself as superior to a struggling brother is self-deception. God won't judge you by comparing you to him. He'll judge you based on whether you carried your own load. Part of that load is supporting those who teach you. So we mustn't be deceived; God will repay us based on what we sowed: corruption for living by our sinful flesh; fruit of the Spirit for living a Spirit-led life. Thus, at every turn we must do good because God rewards those who persist. Paul then reveals the real motive behind the legalists' drive for Galatian circumcision: it's not concern over keeping the Law; the legalists didn't keep it themselves. It was to avoid persecution by boasting in the number of foreskins they collected. Paul, on the other hand, won't boast in anything except in the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ by which he was freed from the world's bondage when it gave him a new identity/position in Christ. Thus, Paul wishes peace and mercy on everyone who lives according to their new position in Christ. And he wants those who speak ill of him to stop. Unlike them, he is willing to suffer persecution for the Cross of Christ and he's got the scars to prove it. Finally, he wishes the Galatians the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.