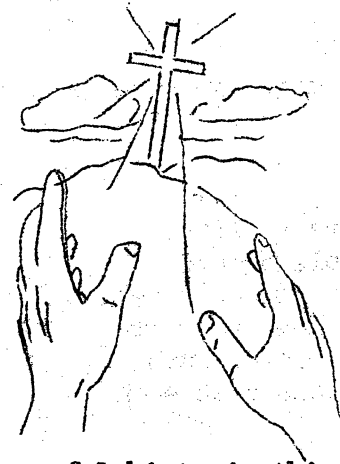


THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

"Spiritual Living"

Gal. 6:3-6



Introduction

1. The kind of living which every believer desires is the sort which marks him out as being adjusted to the Holy Spirit.

2. It is often difficult to spell out in clear terms specifics. Paul, however, provides some helpful hints in this text. Here are the specifics he gives for spiritual living:

1. Toward SELF - proper evaluation. v. 3.

Mark this caution against self-estimation. It is really at the root of many problems. False images of self give vent to false actions toward others. To know oneself is vitally important for Christian living.

a. As superiors.

This relates to those who consider themselves to be something. The "something" is a neuter pronoun. Hence, the idea of number one! Far too many people who should be helping others are too concerned about their own attainments as a big number! Scripture teaches that all have something to learn! Christian living is a growth process.

b. As inferiors.

The words of this verse are open to the thought that each must recognize that he is nothing to be of any value. Again a neuter pronoun. "Less than the least of all saints" should be the spirit of all.

2. Toward SERVICE - proper conduct. vv. 4-5.

In order to get at this, Paul urges an examination of one's work situation.

a. As responsible.

It is tragic that believers so little realize that they are responsible before God! By personal investigation of one's own character and conduct, he will have the satisfaction of finding it well-pleasing unto the Lord! V. 5 shows that in this case each one is personally responsible!

b. As remorseful.

Here is another side to the affair. As one impartially examines his own situation, he becomes aware of the fact that he has nothing to talk about to others. He will find so much wanting, there will be no room for glorying. His burden will be the bearing of his own faults and infirmities.

NOTE: If only believers would get down to personal understanding and personal needs, then competition and criticism etc., would vanish. It is this fearful idea of feeling one has something for which to lord it over or glory over someone else which leads to interpersonal problems! Right?

3. Toward TEACHERS - proper support.

a. As leaders.

That the early church had an organizational setup hardly needs to be noted (cf. Pastoral Epistles). Here those involved in teaching the true Word are singled out as a specific group of leaders. They deal in "good things". Hence, there is a judgment of their teaching!

b. As learners.

Christian people who sit under the ministry of godly teachers are required to see to their contributions (better word than communication.) It is a sad commentary on the "Christianity" of those who sit under ministers of the Gospel but never contribute to their support! Here is a principle of Scripture which needs both emphasis and practice.

Conclusion:

It is true that there are areas of Christian living which fail to find thorough explication. However, when the Lord does give sincere and forthright instruction, let the saints take heed and give evidence of the fact that the Spirit has activated them (5:25) and that they aim to walk in that same Holy Spirit (5:25).

- Amen

NOTES: