MAKE ME A BLESSING

**DATE: 3/30/2016 Wed.**

**TEXT: Galatians 6:2-5**

**INTRODUCTION**

Paul’s challenge to the Galatian church thus far has been mixed with reproof and instruction

Last time in **6:1** we saw Paul teaching the Believers how to be a Restorative Church

Helping the fallen

In this passage, Paul continues to challenge these young Believers in the right ways to treat each other

His instructions are still relevant for us today

We often sing the Hymn, “Make Me a Blessing”

But do we really believe that, do we genuinely want to be a blessing to someone else

We are more often like Esau / thinking only about ourselves

Paul teaches us How to Be a Blessing in **vs. 2-5**

The prayer of every believer’s heart in response to the way we treat others should be 3-fold

Make Me Helpful, Make Me Humble, & Make Me Honorable

Let’s stand to read God’s Word and then pray

And think on this thought tonight

**“MAKE ME A BLESSING”**

**vs. 2-5 …**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, we should pray, Lord …

**I. MAKE ME “HELPFUL” – v. 2**

In light of the context of **v. 1** in reference to the Fallen brother …

It’s logical to see that we need to be helping one another with our difficulties

The Bible speaks of someone who is a Burden Bearer

Someone who will carry both spiritual and physical burdens

**A. *“Bear ye one another's burdens,”***

The word *“****burden”*** carries the idea of being *weighty or hard to bear*

The word ***“bear”*** means to *support or carry*

Many times people have burdens that are simply too much for them to bear alone

**Ecclesiastes 4:9, 10 – *“Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour”***

***“For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: “but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up”***

I’m not a Greek scholar, but they tell us that this verb phrase in the first half of **v. 2** is in the imperative form, meaning it is a Command, not an option

The spiritual Christian will not only be concerned about the problems of others,

But he will actively take upon himself their cares

**Quote:** Warren Wiersbe says, *“The legalist is always harder on other people than he is on himself, but the Spirit-led Christian demands more of himself than he does of others that he might be able to help others”*

We should listen, pray, share, and help in whatever way we can

This is very, very rare today

Jesus said - **Matthew 11:30 –** ***“For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light”***

**B. *“and so fulfil the law of Christ”***

What is the ***“The Law of Christ”***?

While that phrase is only found 2 times in the NT

The other is - **I Corinthians 9:21 *– “To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to***

***… God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law”***

Most scholars believe it to be defined in **Mark 12:28-31**

Where, when asked by one of the Scribes what was the First or Greatest Commandment, Jesus responded by quoting **Deut. 6:4, 5** …

**Mark 12:29-31 – *“And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:” “And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment”***

And then He added **Leviticus 19:18** …

***“And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these”***

This is the ***“The Law of Christ”***

We don’t need to memorize all the Old Testament Laws

Because when we fulfill the ***“The Law of Christ”***

We are automatically fulfilling all the Laws of God

**Matthew 22:40 – *“On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets”***

Christ bore the diseases of the infirm in that He manifested compassion through His healing of them

**Matthew 8:17 –** ***“That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses”***

He actively relieved them

Later He bore the cross and subsequently the sins of the world in His body

**John 19:17 *– “And He bearing His cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:”***

The believer ***“fulfills the law of Christ”*** when he likewise removes weights which would eventually crush others

**I Corinthians 12:25b, 26 – *“the members (of churches) should have the same care one for another” “And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it”***

In **Genesis 4:9**, Cain asked this important question –

***“Am I my brother's keeper?”***

The spiritual Christian will immediately respond “Yes”

**WE SHOULD PRAY … LORD MAKE ME “HELPFUL”**

Then we should pray, Lord …

**II. MAKE ME “HUMBLE” – v. 3**

***“For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself”***

We find a warning in **v.3**

Just let me remind you, We are not as spiritual as we think

Therefore we need to have the right attitude

A spiritual Christian will have a Biblical opinion of himself, not a high opinion of himself

He knows that he is, whatever he is, by the Grace of God

**I Corinthians 15:10 –** ***“But by the Grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the Grace of God which was with me”***

He glories in the Lord, not in his flesh, for his spiritual transformation

**I Corinthians 1:31 – *“That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord”***

**Proverbs 4:23 –*“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life”***

**A. Beware of Pride**

On the other hand, the legalist and the carnal Christian will have high opinions of themselves

***“For if a man think himself to be something”***

Paul was not impressed by such individuals

**Galatians 2:2, 6 *– “And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain” “But of these who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person:) for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me:”***

Christ criticized the haughty spirit of the Pharisee who prayed in **Luke 18:11 – *“God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are”***

**Proverbs 6:17** tells us that God hates a proud look and proud attitude

**Quote:** Someone has said that *“mud is nothing more than dirt stuck on itself”*

Pride is despicable

What makes it worse is when the person has nothing to be proud about - ***“when he is nothing”***

**Ill.** An Arabian proverb says – *“If a man knows not, and knows not that he knows not; he is a fool; shun him!”*

The Laodicean church (**Rev. 3:17**) thought that they were rich and self-sufficient …

But Christ declared them to be ***“wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked”***

**B. Beware of Deception**

The result of pride is self-deception

***“he deceiveth himself”***

The term ***“deceivers”*** is used of the Legalist who attacked the churches on Crete

**Titus 1:10 –** ***“For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:”***

A person deceives himself when he thinks that he is indispensable, that he is always right, and that he is better than others

***“For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself”***

The spiritual man does not think he is something nor that he is nothing – he simply doesn’t compare

**WE SHOULD PRAY … LORD MAKE ME “HELPFUL”**

**WE SHOULD PRAY … LORD MAKE ME “HUMBLE”**

Lastly, we need to pray, Lord …

**III. MAKE ME “HONORABLE” – vs. 4, 5**

People are just not honorable today!

**Honorable** – means to be *guided by, or with a reputation for having, strong moral and ethical principles*

The morals and ethics of modern society are out the window

We need to pray that God would make us Honorable

**A. As I Prove My Work – v.4**

***“But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another”***

A person must pray about / for themselves

**1.** For His Own Work **- v. 4a**

***“But let every man prove his own work,”***

Paul is still dealing with the man in **v. 3** who thinks himself to be something

The idea is, if you think you are something—prove it!

The word ***“prove”*** means *to examine, put to the test*

It carries the idea of *discerning, examining, and testing for the purpose of approval*

It was a blacksmith's term for testing a piece of metal for its strength

In like manner, Paul calls upon us to examine and test ourselves to be sure that we are what we say we are

Not before men, but before God

**Psalm 139:23, 24 *– “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:” “And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting”***

**II Corinthians 13:5 –*“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves”***

A spiritual Christian will be concerned about his own responsibility before the Lord

He tests his efforts with these questions:

-- Did I complete the task?

-- Did I do it well?

-- Did I do it for the glory of God?

He is not jealous or critical of another person’s work

In the parable of the talents in **Matthew 25:14-30** there is no indication that the servant who had the two talents was jealous of the one who had five or that he felt superior to the man who had only one

His main concern was to utilize the money which the lord had entrusted into his care in a maximum way

**2.** Too His Own Satisfaction **– v. 4b**

***“and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another”***

He will take satisfaction in the fact that he has done a good work for God

It is enough to know that God knows what he has done and why he has done it

He does not wait until someone praises him before he can take pleasure in his accomplishment

***“and not in another”***

If you do, you might be waiting a long time

He does not compare his work with others,

Thinking that he did more, or that he did better

**II Corinthians 10:12 *– “For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise”***

He only measures himself by the will of God for his own life

**II Corinthians 10:13-15 –** ***“But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you” “For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ:”***

***“Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly,”***

**As I Prove My Work**

**B. As I Bear My Burdens – v. 5**

***“For every man shall bear his own burden”***

Some may question why **v. 2** tells us to bear one another’s burdens while **v. 5** commands us to bear our own burdens

The answer is simple

**v. 2** is speaking of Service

**v. 5** is speaking about Personal Responsibility

We are commanded to assume Personal Responsibility for our own actions and works

A spiritual Christian will bear the responsibility for his own task

We should not blame others or adverse conditions for our failures

We must all give an account of ourselves one day before Christ

**Romans 14:10 *– “But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother?***

***… for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ”***

Be assured that God will ***“try”*** our works at the Bema seat

It will determine ***“what sort it is”* – I Cor. 3:13**

Why you did … what you did

The words ***“try”***found in **I Cor. 3:13** and ***“prove”***found in **Galatians 6:4** are the same term

Thus God's *future* examination will manifest whether man's *present examination* of his work was honest and true

**I Corinthians 11:28 –** ***“But let a man examine himself”***

**CONCLUSION**

One of the ways to detect someone’s spiritual growth is by the way they handle burdens / hardships

Do you see the Burdens of other? Help them carry them

Do you have your own Burdens? Take them to the Lord

**I Peter 5:7 –** ***“Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you”***

**Hebrews 4:15 *– “For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin”***

**WE SHOULD PRAY … LORD MAKE ME “HELPFUL”**

**WE SHOULD PRAY … LORD MAKE ME “HUMBLE”**

**WE SHOULD PRAY … LORD MAKE ME “HONORABLE”**

**Lord Make Me a Blessing**