



Lessons from Paul's Life and Ministry

FREEDOM IN CHRIST

Galatians 6:1-18

Inductive Discovery Lesson 7

Paul was nearly finished. The hours had slipped by while he paced and persuaded, barely noticing his fatigue or the need for his penman to stretch. Now the afternoon sun was dipping into the horizon but Paul's mind would not rest.

Paul considered how his Galatian friends (he could see them now) would respond when this letter was read aloud. He knew the power of words to break down and build up. He prayed they would accept his reprimand as a *personal* wake-up call. Would they listen with ears to hear? A smug few might begin finger-pointing. *This won't do*, Paul said. Resist the urge to be an "I told you so" critic. Don't fool yourself into thinking you've got it all together. Lift your brother's spirit by loving him like Jesus would. Don't be misled. *You can't turn your nose up at God. You reap what you sow!*

One thought spilled out upon another until finally, Paul seemed to find his closing statement. "So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Paul watched in silence as the penman carefully wrote his last sentence, word for word, and laid down the pen. The letter was written; his gospel defense was convincing and complete. But something within still simmered. Paul pulled the letter close and reached for the pen.

"Look at these huge letters," he wrote. "I am writing these words to you with my own hand." (Some say Paul wrote big because his vision was weak or his hands were arthritic, but it was probably for emphasis.) "These men who are always urging you to be circumcised—what are they after?" Paul's parting words exposed the legalists for what they were: men with false claims, inflated pride and selfish motives. Paul knew, from firsthand experience, how empty such boasting was. He would have none of it. "May it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ..."

Even as Paul wrote the words, the reality of freedom in Christ flooded his heart again. It is all by grace through faith! *My friends, are you listening? Let grace rule your life.* The matter was settled.

"From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus..."

Working Text for Galatians 6:1-18
New American Standard (NAS)

1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. **2** Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. **3** For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. **4** But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. **5** For each one will bear his own load.

6 The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him. **7** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. **8** For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. **9** Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. **10** So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. **12** Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh try to compel you to be circumcised, simply so that they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. **13** For those who are circumcised do not even keep the Law themselves, but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh.

14 But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. **15** For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. **16** And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

17 From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus. **18** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.



OBSERVATION

Read the section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you specifically find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind.** *Do your best to follow Paul's train of thought.* Does he emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

Galatians 6:1-5

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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Galatians 6:6-10

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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Galatians 6:6-10

Facts from the passage:

[illegible]

My Research and Personal Observations:

[illegible]

Galatians 6:11-18

Facts from the passage:

[illegible]

My Research and Personal Observations:

[illegible]

Key Words and Phrases

Key words and phrases help us understand the main point the writer wants to make. How do we recognize key words and phrases? Here are some simple things to look for.

- When you see a word or phrase repeated, you can be sure Paul is using it to make his point.
- If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, it becomes a key word *for you*. Take time to learn the definition so you will understand how it is being used in the sentence.

List any key words and phrases you found in Galatians 6:1-18

Write the definition of the following words or phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a concordance with a Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“spirit of **gentleness**” (vs.1) _____

“deceived” (vs.7) _____

“mocked” (vs.7) _____

“sow” (vs.7-8) _____

“reap” (vs.7-9) _____



INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Galatians 6:1-5

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

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Galatians 6:6-10

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

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Galatians 6:11-18

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take a Closer Look

**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.
Galatians 6:7-8 NKJ**

Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

Meditate on God's Word

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



Something to Think About . . .

Sow a thought and you reap an act; sow an act and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character; sow a character and you reap a destiny.

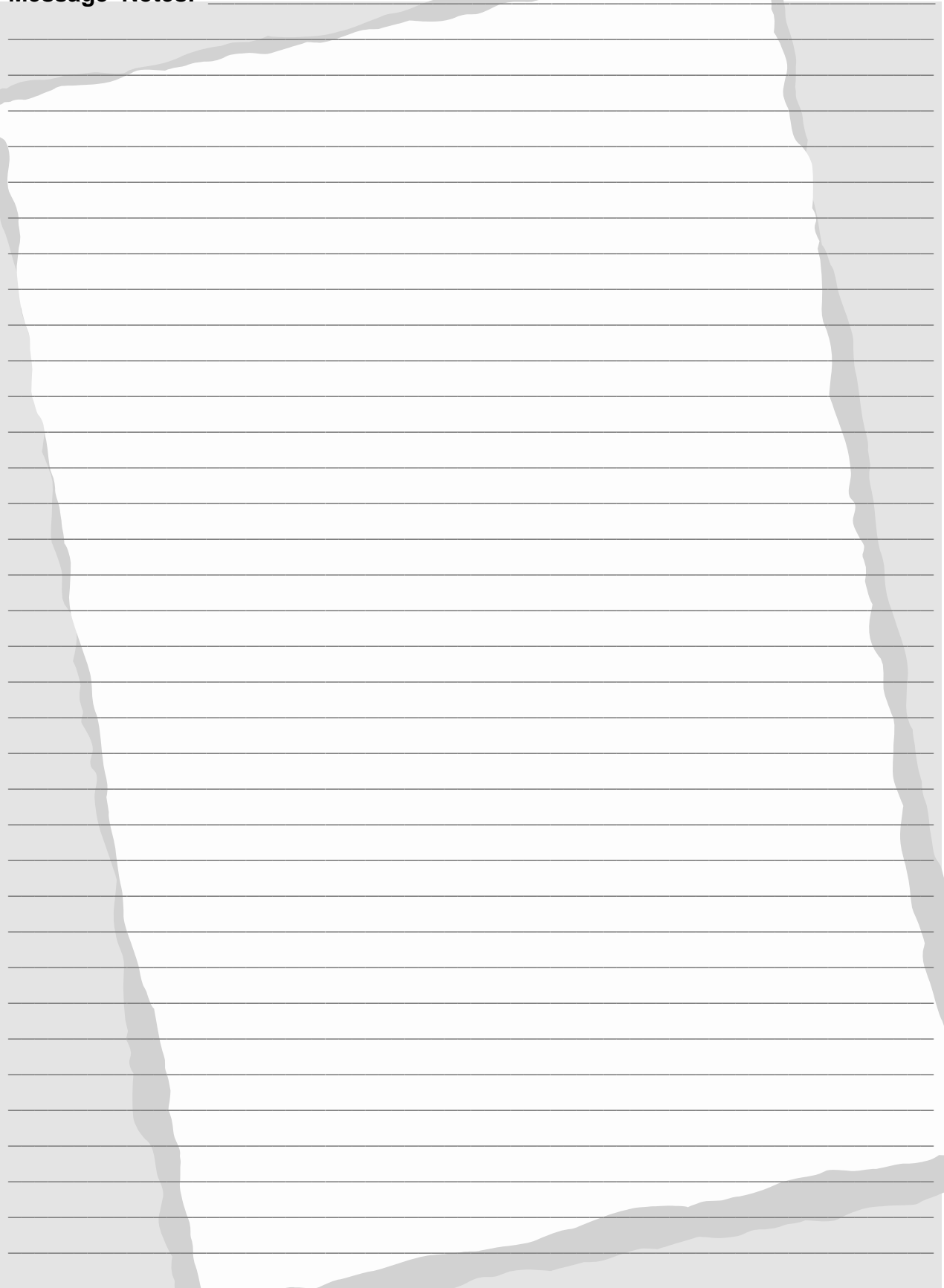
- Samuel Smiles



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study?
How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

Message Notes:





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