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Final Instructions
Gal. 6:1
Pastor C.E. Bowden

Text: Gal. 6:1 “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.”

—**Caught** (V.v. 1-5)

—The word caught from the Greek προλαμβάνω prolambanō **implies that the sin has overtaken the believer**; this sin has become a trap from which this person cannot get free.

—The word is used to describe a military base which has been overrun by an opposing army.

—James describes the process of temptation and failure—**James 1:14–15** “But each one is **tempted** when he is drawn away **by his own desires and enticed**. Then, when **desire** has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”

—To be “**drawn away**” is to be dragged like a fish caught on the hook and pulled from the water.

—“**Desires**” (ἐπιθυμία epithumia) are the things that our fleshly hearts love more than anything else.

—It is not sin to be tempted; sin comes when we allow the desire to “**conceive**” which means the “**desire**” is allowed to take on a life and acted out.

—“**Enticed**” (δελιάζω delezō) is the bait with which to ensnare, its the bait on the hook the fish bites; because of your heart’s desire resistance is weak.

—It’s the fruit on the tree you cannot keep your eyes off of but it leads to death.

—We know that the devil glamorizes the bait—**Gen. 3:6** “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate.”

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—John warns **1John 2:16** “For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.”

—The believer in **Gal 6:1** has been “**caught**” in sin and Paul says restoration to fellowship (from the Greek καταρτίζω katartizō to **knit together, unite completely**) is the only proper answer for this person.

—We do not condemn or cast them aside—The need to “**restore**” is the key to understand **this person is a believer.**

—But restoration should be done by one who is πνευματικός pneumatikos, **spiritually mature**, one who truly exhibits the “**fruit of the Spirit**” listed in **Gal. 5:22–23.**

—Paul warns this could be us—“**But aware of yourself, or you also may be tempted.**” (v. 1 My translation)

—**Gal. 6:2** “Carry each other’s **burdens**, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

—The word “**carry**” from the Greek βαστάζω bastazō meaning to lift.

—The word “**burdens**” (βάρος baros) meaning **someone is worn out** from the weight of struggle with **temptation** and we should help lift the burden

—**Vv. 3-5** deals with the way we see ourselves, Paul is warning us not to be puffed up with pride thinking we are above being tempted.

—Paul writes **Gal. 6:5** “for each one should carry his own load.”

—The word in v. 2 “**burdens**” is from the Greek βάρος baros meaning “**heavy burdens**”—things that are more than one person can carry.

—The word in v. 5 “**load**” (φορτίον phortion) means a person’s “**pack**”; think backpack.

—Each believer has a “**pack**” it is a **relatively light load**—**Matt. 11:30** For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

—We are called to bear our “***pack***” faithfully—***Matt. 16:24*** “Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, ***he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.***”

—Don’t compare your “***pack***” to the overwhelming “***burden***” of one who has been trapped and carried away by a sin.

—Don’t think you have your own load to bear, let that sinner deal with their own problems.

—***Taught (V.v. 6-10)***

—***Gal. 6:6*** “Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor.”

—Take care of the needs of the one who teaches you.

—Paul then writes the common principle of giving that flows throughout the Scripture—***Gal. 6:7*** “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.”

—This is the biblical law of the harvest, you reap what you sow.

—The word “***mocked***” means to turn up the nose at; Paul is telling God has instituted laws that cannot be ignored.

—If you want a spiritual harvest, you must sow spiritual things.

—If you sow only fleshly desires, you will reap death.

—***Don’t grow tired of sowing***—“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (***Gal. 6:9***)

—The law of sowing and reaping requires the understanding of time; ***the harvest does not come over night***; growing or building is a long laborious process—***Mark 4:26–29*** “And He said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.

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—When all things are favorable (*proper time*) the harvest will come.

—Paul’s final words of Galatians restate his teaching on Law vs. grace.

—*Gal. 6:13* “For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised *that they may boast in your flesh.*”

—Peter reminded the council of Jerusalem in—*Acts 15:10* “Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples *which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?*”

—*Gal. 6:15* “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.”

—It is easy to get caught up in the externals (of circumcision or uncircumcision).

—Paul says that in all reality, *the externals are meaningless.*

—The only thing that matters is we are a “*new creation*” in Christ.

—The word “*new*” does not mean better, but brand new—*John 3:3* “Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

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