



The Voice of Truth



October 25, 2009

Burdens We Must Bear!

By Jimmy Pettigrew

In **Galatians chapter six verses two and five**, there are two different Greek works used for the word "burden" in these two passages. Let us look at this word "burden," and how they are used in the context of this chapter. First, in verse two, *"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ"* (**Galatians 6:2**). "Bear ye" is in the present tense and thus indicate the fact that we are to continue to bear one another's burdens. "Bear" is from the Greek which means "to shoulder a heavy burden." The original word for "burdens" literally means weight, a load, trouble. This means supplying a hand to help in lifting a heavy load. The type of burden referred to, in this context, is that of moral afflictions and weaknesses, and the regret and disgrace which they awaken in the guilty party. Such burdens are those which overcome man spiritually and threaten to break him/her down. How do we know this to be true? Look at **verse one**, staying within the context of these passages, *"Brethren, even if a man be overtaken in any trespass, ye who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; looking to thyself, lest thou also be tempted"* (**Galatians 6:1**). The sin under consideration is not precisely pictured, but is only referred to as one that a man is "overtaken in." The words for "overtaken" which Arndt & Gingrich defines as to "detect, overtake, surprise . . . someone." Meaning he is surprised by being caught in the sin. Thayer seems to support this view when he says "to take one by deterring him (before he can flee or conceal his crime). Brothers, if anybody is caught in the very act of doing wrong." McGarvey & Pendleton said it means "literally, caught."

The word "trespass" comes from the Greek word which means according to Arndt & Gingrich "a false step, transgression, sin." Thayer defines it as "a lapse or deviation

from truth and uprightness; a sin; misdeed."

The word for "restore" is a word that is used for executing a repair, "to repair, to restore to a former good condition, to prepare, to fit out, to equip." It is used of reconciling factions, of setting bones, of putting a dislocated limb into place. It is used by Paul usually in a figurative sense of setting a person right, of bringing him into line.

In restoring a person to his rightful condition, one bears or helps carry his burden, his load, or weight. I say all this because, often burdens are thought of as physical problems such as sickness, or I need you to bear my burden of taking me all over town; or I need you to clean out my garage, clean my house, help me move, or I have financial problems, etc., but the context is dealing with the fallen. **"...admonish the disorderly, encourage the fainthearted, support the weak, be longsuffering toward all"** (**1 Thess. 5:14**). We take this passage out of its setting, out of its context. It is not taking advantage of others in the physical realm! Paul speaks of Christians bearing each other's sorrows, due to sins, dealing with the fallen, spiritual not physical. Why do my brethren always quote this verse just to take advantage of brethren? You need to help me do this, you need to help me do that, you're supposed to bear my burden, this week I need my car wash. We should understand that it is our responsibility to help one another in spiritual matters. We have a responsibility to extend help to a fallen brother. The burden under consideration is the sin in which a brother has been overtaken. The faithful brother is to help bear the burden by assisting in the restoration of the sinner. Here the burden is the sense of weakness and shame, the sense of dishonor done to the name of the Lord Jesus, which is the portion of a believer who

has been overtaken in a trespass. We bear one another's burdens when we support and uphold one another, help one another in the trials of life, and restore to fellowship when one stumbles!

If a brother commits a sin there is the responsibility of helping him bear it by showing him his error, encouraging him to repent and giving him the encouragement he needs to keep himself free of his sin. In this way, one bears his burden with him. But ultimately the man who sins is responsible for his own sin. Notice: *"For each man shall bear his own burden" (Galatians 6:5)*. Here in **verse five** the Greek word for burden means obligation, personal responsibility. One cannot obey the gospel for another; there are personal obligations which are not transferable; each must carry his own load. This is true whether the burdens are physical or moral. One might help the brother carry the physical loads of life but ultimately he is the one that must face his own problems. Each must answer for himself to God: in this sense, no other can assume our burden. *"... for we shall all stand before the judgment-seat of God. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, to me every knee shall bow, And every tongue shall confess to God. So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God." "Who will render to every man according to his works." " For we must all be made manifest before the judgment-seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things (done) in the body, according to what he hath done, whether (it be) good or bad" (Romans 14:10-12; 2:6; 2 Corinthians 5:10)*. We have an individual life that carries its own responsibilities. We are individually responsible to God. There are afflictions we must bear alone. We have a load of responsibility that we must bear ourselves. It is a burden that cannot be given to another. We must act for ourselves in the matter of salvation. I am saying, if you are lost, or an erring brother or sister, you cannot blame others, you cannot blame circumstances, the blame is on you!

Each must fulfill his/her duty before God! The weights of the afflicted, and erring are to

be shared by the saints; the burden of each is to be borne by himself in respect to rendering his account to God. *

"These Three Men"

By Jarrod Jacobs

*"The word of the LORD came again to me, saying, Son of man, when the land sinneth against me by trespassing grievously, then will I stretch out mine hand upon it, and will break the staff of the bread thereof, and will send famine upon it, and will cut off man and beast from it: Though **these three men**, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD. If I cause noisome beasts to pass through the land, and they spoil it, so that it be desolate, that no man may pass through because of the beasts: Though **these three men** were in it, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither sons nor daughters; they only shall be delivered, but the land shall be desolate. Or if I bring a sword upon that land, and say, Sword, go through the land; so that I cut off man and beast from it: Though **these three men** were in it, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither sons nor daughters, but they only shall be delivered themselves. Or if I send a pestilence into that land, and pour out my fury upon it in blood, to cut off from it man and beast: Though Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness" (Ezek. 14:12-20)*.

"These three men" made quite an impression upon God. In fact, they continue to have an impact upon us today! Why do I say this? I say this because "these three men" mentioned in **Ezekiel 14**, played major roles in the Bible, being faithful to God in spite of the horrible circumstances around them, and seeing it through until the end of their lives.

For example, it was Noah who kept the human race alive during the time of the Flood (**Gen. 6-8**). If it had not been for him

being “a just man, perfect in his generations” and walking with God (**Gen. 6:9**), we would not be here today! He was faithful to God when the rest of the world had turned their backs on God (**Gen. 6:5-7**). As a result, “eight souls were saved by water” (**I Pet. 3:20**) and by extension, the entire world was spared due to his faith and action (**Heb. 11:7**)! Next, God names Daniel in this text. Daniel was a man who maintained a godly and upright life in spite of living in one of the most wicked empires in history. Daniel was contemporary with Ezekiel, but lived in the palace of Babylon and had access to the kings, whereas Ezekiel did not. It was during Daniel’s life that he had the opportunity to show the heathen emperors the One true and living God (**Dan. 2:47, 4:37, 6:26-28**). Even in old age, he maintained his faithfulness before God (**Dan. 6**). Finally, the third man named by God, Job, showed us the true meaning of patience and endurance in spite of his horrible circumstances (**Jas. 5:11**). Job suffered at the hands of Satan for a while, losing all his possessions, his family, his health, and the favor of his wife (**Job 1-2**), but emerged from this experience victorious and blessed by God (**Job 42:12-17**).

In addition to this, God called “these three men” righteous. He said if He chose to destroy the people or curse the land due to men’s sins, if “these three men” were living in that land, then God would spare only them out of the entire population! Such a statement not only gives us insight into God’s estimation of these men, but it also lets us see just how far the current generation of people had gone away from God! Think about what this was saying in reference to the general population of the Jews. Two of the three men mentioned had been DEAD for centuries! Yes, the people had fallen far from God!

When we consider the spiritual strength “these three men” possessed, we see another way in which their influence is felt. These men kept their faith in God strong while enduring various attacks from God’s enemies. Sometimes, God’s enemies came dressed as friends, such as was the case

with Job’s friends, and even his wife (**Job 2-37**). Sometimes, God’s enemies came dressed as kings and those who wielded power on earth, such as Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, and others that Daniel and his three friends faced (**Dan. 3, 6**). Sometimes, God’s enemies came dressed as the “majority,” who would make it very hard for Noah to do what God says. Noah was preparing for something that had never been seen before on earth (**Heb. 11:7**). He was going against “popular thinking” and what “everyone else” believed and thought!

God’s enemies came to “these three men”, masking their true intentions at times, in order to defeat them. “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light” (**II Cor. 11:14**)! Studying about Noah, Daniel, and Job lets us see some of the things they endured in order to please God! God’s enemies made Noah, Daniel, and Job feel great pressure, persecuted them, and treated them horribly. It reminds me of the descriptions given by the Holy Spirit in **Hebrews 11:33-39** as “these three men” were faithful in obedience to God in spite of the hatred they faced by the world at large.

Yes, Noah, Daniel, and Job were unique people in the history of man. It was Noah who witnessed the destruction of the world. It was Daniel who witnessed the destruction of two nations: Judah and Babylon. It was Job who witnessed the destruction of a life. Yet, as great as these men were, they could, at best, only save themselves (**Ezek. 14:14, 16, 18, 20**). Therefore, when it came to the salvation of the souls of men, it required more than just a “good man” or a “good leader” to die. It took the Son of God (**Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8**)! It took the One who was God in the flesh (**Jn. 1:14**), “God with us” (**Matt. 1:23**) to come and die as a sacrifice for sins (**Heb. 7:25-27**). As a result of His actions, He did something Noah, Daniel, Job, nor anyone else, could do — He died so that others could be saved (**Lk. 19:10**). Let us learn the lessons “these three men” teach us, but even more than this, let us be thankful to God for His gracious, wonderful gift (Jesus the Christ) that produces salvation for

each and every person on earth (**Matt. 20:28; 1 Tim. 1:15**).

Knowing what kind of men Noah, Daniel, and Job were, and realizing that they were truly inspiring men for a number of reasons, none of them could die as a sacrifice for our sins. It took Christ to die as a sacrifice! Seeing that this is true, what applications can we make to our lives?

First, let us be reminded of the words of **Romans 15:4** and realize that *“these three men”* are our examples and inspirations today just as they were in the days that they lived. They may not have been appreciated by the majority, but they were doing what was right, and God recognized it! Their lives show us that if they were faithful in spite of the hard circumstances they faced, so also we can be faithful! The Bible tells us this is what God expects of His people (**1 Cor. 15:58; Rev. 2:10**), and *“these three men”* are living examples of doing what God said.

Second, may we learn that when we do as the Lord says, the world will not like it. Jesus told His disciples, *“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if*

they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also” (**Jn. 15:18-20**). James stated it this way: *“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God”* (**Jas. 4:4**). Since this is true, does it not also follow that whoever will be a friend of God is then the enemy of the world? Let us be as Noah, Daniel, and Job, and make the decision to be the friend of God even if it means being an enemy of the world.

Finally, let us also remain humble as we strive to please God in this world. These men could save themselves, God said, but they could save no one else. Therefore, there was no room for boasting in the lives of Noah, Daniel, or Job, because the best these men could do was *still* insufficient! In like manner, *“when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do”* says Jesus in **Luke 17:10**. Humility is a necessity in the life of a child of God. Let us therefore be *“clothed with humility”* (**1 Pet. 5:5**). Let us do as Peter said and, *“humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time”* (**1 Pet. 5:6**).

With the knowledge we have gained, let us now go into the world and apply the lessons of *“these three men”* to our lives.

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - **Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3**

Believe - **Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24**

Repent - **Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30**

Confess the Lord - **Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21**

Be Baptized - **Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27**

Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - **Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17**

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew

How to Contact Us

Telephone: (920)499-5677
E-mail: hillcrestcofc@live.com



Our Address

1621 Hillcrest Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313



Schedule of Assembly

Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com