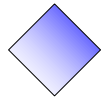


The Voice of Truth



November 3, 2013

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 fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2)*. "Bear ye" is in the present tense and thus indicates 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 "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 burdens are often 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 washed. 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*

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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 that 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. ♦

"OUR GOD IS ABLE"

TO SUBJECT ALL (Phil. 3:21)

TO SAVE & DESTROY (James 4:12; Matt. 10:28)

RAISE THE DEAD (Heb. 11:19)

PERFORM PROMISES (Rom. 4:21)

AID THOSE TEMPTED (Heb. 2:18)

MAKE GRACE ABOUND (2 Cor. 9:8)

KEEP THAT COMMITTED TO HIM (2 Tim. 1:12; 1 Pet. 1:9)

DO MORE THAN WE ASK OR THINK (Eph. 3:20-21; Mark 9:23)

SAVE ALL WHO COME TO HIM THROUGH CHRIST (Heb. 7:25) ♦

The Nature Of The Kingdom Of God

IS NOT

1. Of This World (**John 18:36**).
2. Eating and Drinking (**Rom. 14:17**).
3. In Word (**1 Cor. 4:20**).
4. With Observation (**Luke 17:20**).

IS

1. In Power (**1 Cor. 4:20**).
2. Righteousness (**Rom. 14:17**).
3. Peace (**Rom. 14:17**).
4. Joy (**Rom. 14:17**).
5. Within You (**Luke 17:21**).
6. Unshakable (**Heb. 12:28**). ♦

GOD HAS A RIGHT

Author unknown

God has a right to a definite part of your time

— He has the power to take all of it.

God has a right to a definite part of your money

— He has the power to take all of it.

God has a right to be glorified through your tongue

— He has the power to take all of it.

God has a right to be honored through your influence

— He has the power to take all of it.

God has a right to your life

— He has the power to take all of it. ♦

“The Bible Has Lies In It!”

By Jarrod Jacobs

Does the title above surprise you? Would it surprise you further to learn that when said in its proper context, the above is a true statement? I realize some folks say things like this in an effort to denounce the Bible, and to put it on the level of a work of man rather than a work of God (II **Tim. 3:16-17**). This is obviously not my purpose. However, when we spend time reading and studying God’s word, it will not take long before we notice several whose lies are recorded for us in the Bible. Let us study a few examples together and make some applications:

1. Satan lied when he told Eve that she and her husband could eat of the forbidden fruit and “*shall not surely die*” after God had said they would die if they ate of that fruit (**Gen. 3:4, 2:17**). Due to this lie, we read where Christ called Satan the “*father*” of lies (**Jn. 8:44**). Satan was the author, or originator of lies on earth, and many of his lies are recorded in the Bible.

2. Many prophets have lied through the years. For example, the old prophet of **I Kings 13** lied when he told the young prophet an angel had spoken to him and told the young prophet to eat at his house (**I Kings 13:18**).

Hananiah was a false prophet who “*made this people (Judah) trust in a lie*” when he told king Zedekiah and the people that God would break the yoke of Babylon and that the people would return “*within two full years*” (**Jer. 28:2-3, 11, 15**).

Peter said, “*false prophets also arose among the people ...*” (II **Pet. 2:1**). Yes, the lies of many false prophets are recorded in the Bible that we might hear and fear!

3. Ananias and Sapphira lied when they made it seem like they had given all their money from a property sale to the apostles for the benefit of the poor saints. In fact, they didn’t do that at all, but lied to the Holy Spirit (**Acts 5:1-11**).

4. Paul warned Timothy about the lying of certain ones, specifically naming Hymenaeus and Philetus as two who lied to Christians when they taught them that “*the resur-*

rection has already happened” and overthrew some folks’ faith (II **Tim. 2:17-18**).

5. When John wrote to the Christians, he said that one who would deny that Jesus is the Christ “*is a liar*” (I **Jn. 2:22**). Did this happen at times? Evidently, it did, for Peter said there were some who went that far in their false teaching (II **Pet. 2:1**).

These are just a few examples of the lies which can be found in the Bible. Yet, what is their purpose for being in the Bible? I don’t know that there is a single reason for including these lies, but perhaps a couple of reasons for recording lies in the Bible would include:

1) Many times, when folks lied, they were exposed for the lies they told. Thus, when the lies were exposed, it caused the truth to shine that much brighter. In other words, God’s word (**truth, Jn. 17:17**) is so diametrically opposed to error and falsehood, that when lies are exposed, the difference between truth and falsehood becomes even more apparent.

2) Take note that sometimes, those who lied were God’s people (ex: Abraham in **Gen. 12:13, 20:2**; or Peter in **Matt. 26:69-75**, etc.). Such impartiality by God (**Rom. 2:11; Col. 3:25**), lets us see these characters, “warts and all” and allows us to learn from their mistakes (**Rom. 15:4**) so we don’t make those mistakes, ourselves.

Conclusion

Yes, the Bible records many who lied, but for all of the lies, we find the Truth is there to defeat and denounce each and every lie (**Jn. 17:17**)! Make no mistake, if folks tell lies and are unrepentant, they will “*have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death*” (**Rev. 21:8**). Though men are susceptible to lying, God still remains opposed to it. God cannot lie (**Titus 1:2**), and He expects us to be honest as well (**Eph. 4:25**)! Let us be like God (**Rom. 12:2**) and tell the truth (**Col. 3:9**)! *Credit: The Old Paths – 2/19/12 ♦*

**THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STUMBLING BLOCKS
AND STEPPING STONES ARE THE WAY WE USE THEM. ♦**

*Truth is truth even if no one believes it.
Error is error if everyone believes it. ♦*

REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

By David J. Riggs

Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." (**Matt. 11:11**). This exalts the kingdom revealing that all therein, no matter how insignificant, have a station superior to John's. This being true, the requirements for membership in the kingdom should be of grave importance to everyone. Let us, therefore, carefully examine the Scriptures to fully understand what God requires, to avoid the traditions of men, and to better equip ourselves to teach others.

The Word of God must be heard. Peter said, "...God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe." (**Acts 15:7**). John showed that the written word produces the faith that brings life in the name of Jesus (**John 20:30-31**). Thus, before one can become a member of the church or kingdom, he must hear with open mind the gospel which is God's power to save.

A living faith must be produced. We must not only believe that God is, but also that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (**Heb. 11:6**). In all the cases in the Bible where God blessed men because of faith, it was after faith was demonstrated in some act. Faith without such visible acts is dead and will not justify (**James 2:24**). The faith that saves is the faith that obeys.

Repentance is necessary. Godly sorrow works repentance to salvation (**2 Cor. 7:10**). God now requires that all men everywhere repent (**Acts 17:30**). Peter told those Jews on the day of Pentecost, "Repent, and let every one

of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (**Acts 2:38**). Unless one repents, he will perish (**Luke 13:3**).

A verbal confession must be made. **Rom. 10:9** says, "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Peter confessed "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (**Matt. 16:16**). The Eunuch said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." (**Acts 8:37**). These various confessions are similar and proclaim that Jesus is ruler and king, the anointed of God, and the One who is to be worshiped and obeyed. Everyone must confess with his mouth Jesus as Lord.

An immersion in water is essential. The baptism of Christ requires a burial in water (**Acts 10:47; Col. 2:12**). Jesus was immersed to fulfill all righteousness and thereby left us an example (**Matt. 3:13-16**). Jesus commanded baptism in His great commission as a condition of pardon (**Mark 16:15-16**). It is for remission of sins and puts one into Christ (**Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27**). It places one in the body which is the church (**1 Cor. 12:13**). Thus, baptism is the final act of obedience that completes one's membership.

When people obey God, their sins are forgiven and God recognizes and accepts them as His own. They are added to His church and enjoy the privileges and share the responsibilities of that relationship.

Credit: <http://oakridgechurch.com/riggs/> ♦

POINTS TO PONDER...

Today, well lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope.

This time, like all other times, is a good one if we but know what to do with it.

It is one of the most compensations of life: that no man can help another without helping himself.

Each of us is a noble creation! Let us not fail to exhibit it in action and good deeds. ♦

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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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