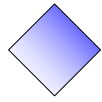


# The Voice of Truth



June 22, 2014

## Burdens We Must Bear! By Jimmy Pettigrew

In **Galatians chapter six verses two and five**, there are two different Greek words 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 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 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. ♦

## "Wrong Attitudes"

By Jarrod Jacobs

There are people in this world who are guilty of wrong attitudes, which result in wrong actions. Christians, of course, are not immune. In fact, God's people from the beginning have had to contend with wrong attitudes and wrong actions from others, as well as the temptation to have these wrong attitudes, themselves. The Bible tells us of some who had wrong attitudes, and as a result, sinned. Let us consider the following.

### Some Have A Proud Attitude.

Perhaps pride is one of the worst attitudes we face. It has raised its ugly head on many occasions, starting very early in the history of man. God warns us about the dangerous attitude of pride on many occasions in the Bible.

The Holy Spirit, through Solomon, warned of pride in the book of Proverbs. This book says, "*The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate*" (**8:13**). "*When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom*" (**11:2**). "*By the mouth of a fool comes a rod for his back...*" (**14:3**). "*Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall*" (**16:18**). "*One's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor*" (**29:23**).

We see several people in the Bible who displayed pride. Consider Diotrephes who loved "to put himself first" (**III Jn. 9**). Because of his pride, he "does not acknowledge our authority." He not only used malicious words against John and other apostles, but did not receive brethren, and

"stops those who want to and puts them out of the church." This man was so lifted up with pride, that he was literally out of control. He would allow no one to question his preeminence he had in that local church. Friends, this is as wrong as it can be!

Other examples of pride include King Nebuchadnezzar, who lost his kingdom for a time because he thought he was a "self-made man." This was wrong. (**Dan. 4:30-37, 5:20**). Ultimately, his grandson Belshazzar lost the kingdom forever because of his pride (**Dan. 5:22-31**). Unfortunately, this man did not learn from the mistakes of Nebuchadnezzar (**Dan. 5:22-23**). **Hosea 5:5-7** records that even God's people Israel were guilty of pride. As a result, God withdrew Himself from them.

God has no part or lot with a proud man. One with pride cannot be His child. God uses those who are humble (**I Pet. 5:5-6**). Friend, do you have a proud attitude? If so, you need to repent. God hates that attitude (**Prov. 6:16-17**).

### Some Have A Covetous Attitude.

To covet is to have "avarice, i.e. (by impl.) fraudulency, extortion ... greediness" (**Strong's**). When one places a person or thing before God in terms of importance in his life, then this person is covetous. In **Colossians 3:5**, we note that God equates covetousness with idolatry itself. Thus, idolatry (covetousness) is alive and well today. Some may be covetous toward money (**I Tim. 6:10**), toward a

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person (**Ex. 20:17**), toward their own interests (**Eph. 4:19-20**), toward recreation (**I Tim. 4:8**), etc. Anything that you allow to come between you and God becomes your idol. It is that for which you covet and devout yourself. Friends, if we are going to be God's faithful children, we must not be covetous.

Some examples of covetousness in the Bible include Achan who coveted after "a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels" and caused the Israelites to lose the battle against the people of Ai (**Josh. 7:5, 18-21**). The remedy was that he was to die, as well as his family, in order for the Israelites to be in good standing with God (**Josh. 7:23-26**).

We might also consider the covetousness mentioned in **I Timothy 6:10**. "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." The NKJ says that those who would covet after money, or wealth, have "strayed from the faith in their greediness." It is a dangerous matter indeed when we consider those who covet. When people put have covetousness in their lives, they are turning away from God and from His soul-saving word!

### Some Have A Self-Sufficient Attitude.

Some, especially in this country, have the attitude that they can do it all by themselves. Some never admit their need for God, but think that all things depend upon them and their efforts. We need to realize that we are not self-sufficient, but are helpless. We could do nothing if it were not for God (**Jn. 15:5**). We would not be here if it were not for God. **Colossians 1:17** teaches that Christ "is before all things, and in him all things hold together." In other words, were it not for our Lord, nothing would even exist! How dare we think we are self-sufficient in any way? How many times have we sang the song, "I Need Thee Every Hour"? Do we really mean that? Or, is our attitude toward Christ one of "don't call me, I'll call you"?

Some who had a self-sufficient attitude include the rich fool of Luke 12. Jesus, in speaking of him, showed that this man thought he had provided everything for himself. Notice in **Luke 12:16-21**, that the personal pronoun "I" is used by him 6 times in this short account. He never thought about God, nor thanked Him for the bounty. He was merely concerned for himself, and lost it all in a night!

The Christians James wrote to thought they were self-sufficient as well. James told them, "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit' — yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.' As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil" (**Jas. 4:13-16**).

Their proud, arrogant boasting was evil in God's sight. They thought they were self-sufficient, could provide for their own, and did not need to include God at any point. They were wrong then, and we are wrong today if we think we do not need God. We do not know what may come tomorrow (**Prov. 27:1**). Therefore, we need to remember who holds tomorrow, and live for Him!

### Some Have An Apathetic Attitude.

To show apathy is to show little or no interest or concern in a person or thing. Therefore, those who show apathy toward the Lord and His church show no concern or interest for the Lord and His church. This can do nothing but damage people spiritually. Yet, there are many today so caught up in worldly pursuits, that they have no interest, or concern for the things that are most important.

There are many apathetic people mentioned in the Bible. Consider the fact that Paul had to remind those "that are rich in this world" that they had a responsibility to the Lord and His cause (**I Tim. 6:17-19**). If they were not careful, they would only show their interest in material pursuits, and show no interest in the Lord.

Another who was apathetic was Agrippa. When faced with the greatest decision one can make in this life, he refused, telling Paul, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian" (**Acts 26:28**). Agrippa was very aware of the doctrine of Christ (**v. 26**), but had no interest or concern in it, nor for his soul. In fact, there are many today who show that their interests lie in other things besides the gospel. When we see people around us show apathy toward the Lord and His church, may that stand as a warning that we need to watch ourselves lest we also become apathetic (**I Cor. 10:12, 15:33**).

### Conclusion

As always, we need to examine ourselves as we study this, and any other Bible subject (**II Cor. 13:5**). Let us

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make sure we are not guilty of these wrong attitudes, for they will develop into wrong actions! In some, it is already apparent what attitude they have. Let us do our best to live by the Bible, to follow its precepts, and love the Author. If we are guilty of harboring any of the attitudes we

have studied, then let us repent and turn from those things while we have the time to do so (**Heb. 3:7-8**). May God help us all to have the right attitude, to live for Him, and look forward to Heaven when this life is over.

*Credit: The Old Paths - 6/1/14 ♦*

### Gladly Suffering Into Eternity

By Jonathan L. Perz

The apostle Paul faced trials and persecution as a result of serving the Lord. Some of this was likely the fruit of the persecution he bestowed upon others before his conversion (**Acts 8:1, 4; 9:16**). Other persecution was the fruit of the good fight of faith he fought (**2 Tim. 4:7**).

Whether for wrongdoing (**1 Pet. 2:19-20a**) or for righteousness sake (**1 Pet. 2:20b-21**), this persecution clearly began to weigh on him. At one point, the Lord sought fit to encourage him in the face of this persecution (**Acts 18:9-10**). Consider the persecution he suffered as a testimony of His ministry (**2 Cor. 11:22-28**).

Some of Paul's most encouraging and hopeful words regarding his suffering spur us to realize the true value of suffering. Paul wrote, *"Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not*

*look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal"* (**2 Cor. 4:16-18**).

The light affliction we suffer here—even persecution—has a way of strengthening our appetite for the hereafter! Paul's suffering was endured with his eyes on heaven!

He was persuaded that God was able to keep his faith until that day (**2 Tim. 1:12**). He was hard-pressed between his labors here and his desire for eternity (**Phil. 1:23**). Paul, like many others, gladly suffered his way into eternity (**Phil. 3:7-10; Col. 1:24; 1 Tim. 4:8-10; 2 Tim. 2:8-10; 3:12**)!

When we suffer in this life, do we realize that these things should make us long less for the things of this earth and more for the blessing of heaven?

*Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com ♦*

**When an archer misses the mark, he turns and looks for the fault within himself. Failure to hit the bull's-eye is never the fault of the target. To improve your aim – Improve yourself. ♦**

### 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

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