

# BOOK OF GALATIANS

## *“Reason for Boasting”*

Scripture Reading: GALATIANS 6:1-5

- ) **SLIDES 1-6.** Bible Jeopardy!
- ) **SLIDES 7-8.** Read today’s Scripture text.
- ) **SLIDE 9.** Today we continue in our expository study of the Book of GALATIANS. This is message #43. I have titled today’s message *“Reason for Boasting”* (6:4).
- ) **SLIDE 10.** In our last time together, we covered GAL 6:1 at length and talked about how to restore a brother or sister in Christ who is caught in a trespass. We must have the desire to restore our trespassing brother or sister in Christ gently and without being boastful about our own spirituality.
- ) **SLIDE 11.** We find the conclusion of that restoration process in GAL 6:2. Our brother or sister in Christ is carrying a sinful burden (context), and we help bear that burden in our efforts to restore them. As I said last time, we love this person and that’s why we implement a restoration process. It’s that *“love thy neighbor as thyself”* command. We fulfill the law of Christ.
- ) But implementing this restoration process could lead a believer to boast. And Paul addresses boasting again in verses 3-5. But before we unpack these three verses, let’s lay a foundation about boasting.
- ) **SLIDE 12.** Definition of *“boast.”*
- ) All humans have inherited the sinful nature. One sinful trait that humans have is their ability to boast—to boast about our accomplishments—to boast about us. Look what I did. Look what I know. And sometimes it’s easy to boast without being aware that we are doing it. *“Well, since you asked.”*

- ) **SLIDE 13.** What does the Bible say about boasting? It's sinful to do so. PROV 25:14."
- ) **SLIDE 14.** ROMANS 1:30. Explain.
- ) **SLIDE 15.** 2TIMOTHY 3:1-2. Explain.
- ) **SLIDE 16.** 1 JOHN 2:15-16. Explain.
- ) We can conclude from these few Scripture verses that man is boastful about his gifts, his evil deeds, himself, what he has, and what he does. And believers can be boastful about their spiritual condition too.
- ) **SLIDE 17.** GAL 5:26. Yes. Believers can be boastful about their spiritual condition. Paul begins his lecture on boasting here in 5:26. A believer could boast about his/her Spiritual condition, especially when it comes to restoring a fellow believer. What does Paul say about boasting in verses 3-5?
- ) **SLIDE 18.** GAL 6:3-5. There is no doubt that there are some believers who appear to follow the Word of God better than others. But regardless of our level of Christianity (if there is such a thing), how do we handle that? Are we humble? Are we self-righteous? Are we boastful?
- ) **SLIDE 19.** JOHN 15:4-5. Jesus puts us in our place in these verses here. We are nothing apart from Him. Everything we are Spiritually is because of Him. Our justification (being saved) is because of Him. Our sanctification (growing in Christ) is because of Him. And our glorification (eternity) is because of Him.
- ) And yet there are still those believers who say "*Look at me.*" Do not be deceived. It's not about you and what you have accomplished Spiritually.
- ) **SLIDE 20.** Paul refers to his own boasting in 1COR 15:10. You can see here where Paul appears to be going in a boastful tangent, but quickly gives the glory where the glory is due.

- )] **SLIDE 21.** GAL 6:3-5. Let's look at verse 4.
- )] I said this our last time together and I'll say it again. We love to compare ourselves with others. And especially if a brother or sister in Christ has fallen in a trespass, that can make us feel superior. It can give us a reason to boast. "*Gee, I would never find myself falling into a sinful situation like that.*" O ya?
- )] May I remind all of us of the definition of the word boast: "*to speak of oneself with excessive pride.*"
- )] And what Paul is saying in verse 4 is that we cannot do that. We must examine our own lives and our own sinfulness. Any boasting must be in ourselves and not our superiority over others, and even that boasting in ourselves is not of ourselves. It is what the Lord has done in us.
- )] **SLIDE 22.** 1 COR 1:30-31. It's pretty simple. What we are Spiritually has nothing to do with our ability to be or do so. What God has done in us is our only reason for boasting. And we must remember that when we implement the restoration process with another believer, lest we be deceived.
- )] **SLIDE 23.** GAL 6:3-5. And that leads us to v5. I added v2 to this slide. It appears that v2 and v5 contradict each other but they don't. Let me explain.
- )] Verse 2 means we help bear the believer's burden in our efforts of restoring them gently. We love that person and by restoring them we fulfill the law of Christ.
- )] Verse 5, on the other hand, when it says that we will all bear our own loads, means we are responsible for our own actions. Don't think that even though we did not fall into the same sin as our fellow believer, does not mean we will not be responsible for the sins that we do fall into. We WILL bear our own loads.
- )] Paul does not want us to even hint at boasting about our perceived superior Spiritual condition over another believer for two reasons.

- ) 1) We are not superior to other believers because we have all fallen short of the glory of God. Amen? And 2) we boast only in what the Lord has done in us. We are all on equal ground. We haven't arrived yet. We are all still on this journey of growing and becoming more Christ-like.
- ) Our reason for boasting? It's not about how Spiritually great I am or how Spiritually great you are. It's what the Lord has done in us. Let's never forget that.

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